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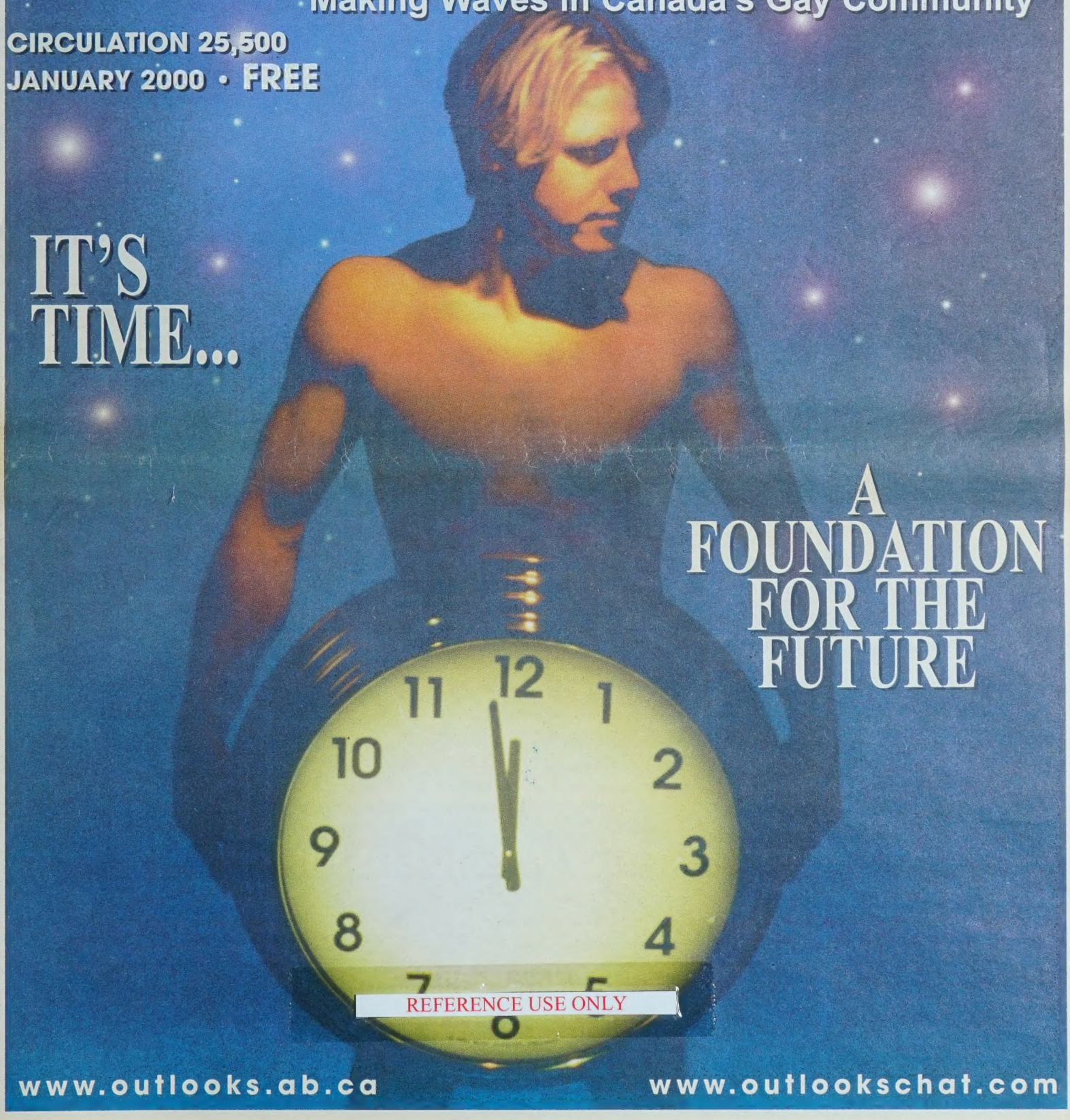

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WHAT'S WHERE

Cover: Timing Is Everything

Good things lie ahead for the future of gay Canada.
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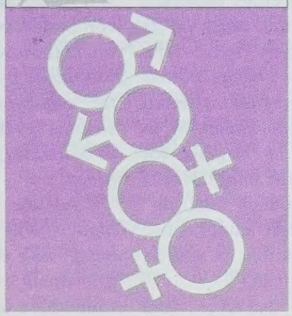
OUTLOOKS MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Onward And Upward

The Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation lays the groundwork for a brave new world.

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Gilbert— Hold The Sullivan

An interview with Buddies In Bad Times' Sky Gilbert about his upcoming play *The Birth of Casper G. Schmidt.*

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Hey Jude!

Mr. Law is the object of affection for Matt Damon's Mr. Ripley, believe it or not.

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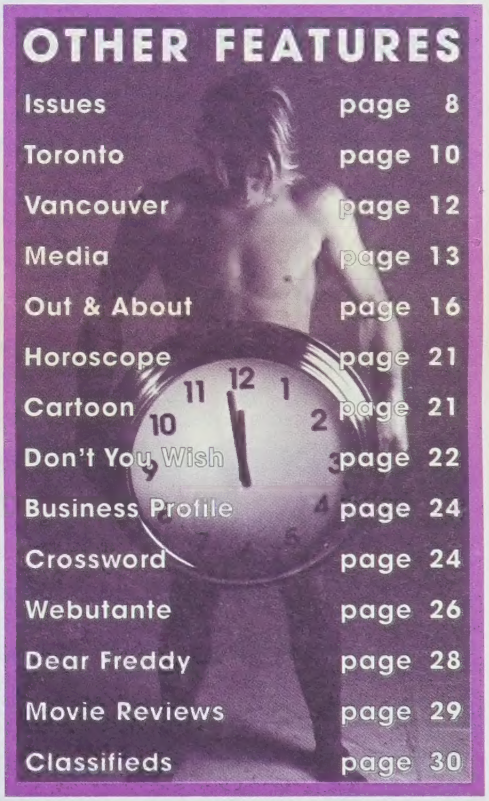
Pencil Us In

Once again, *Outlooks* sets you up with a date for every day of the coming year.

OTHER FEATURES



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OUTLOOKS MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

New foundation unites gay Canada

In the relatively brief span of time from Stonewall to century's close, much has changed with the gay community and how it is perceived by the broader population. Rather than thinking of progress in terms of 'battles' and 'wars', we should view the issue of gay rights as a kind of evolution, a constant move forward as opposed to a convoluted do-si-do of wins and losses.

Perhaps one of the greatest drawbacks of this country's national gay community is the sense of fragmentation it bears, being comprised of many diverse regional components. Aside from EGALE (Equality for Gays And Lesbians Everywhere) there is no cohesive organization that binds gay Canada as a whole.

All that's about to change.

On January 1st, the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation was launched as a means to further the presence, profile and prosperity of gay and lesbian organizations across the country.

According to *Outlooks* publisher Roy Heale, the primary mandate of the foundation is to provide seed money for the creation of new gay and lesbian organizations across Canada, as well as support the advancement of those already in existence.

A variety of projects or groups are currently eligible for consideration of grant funds allocation, with others to be added in future as new initiatives come to light.

Of primary concern is the disbursement of funds for the creation of new community groups or associations. This category includes gay business associations, sport and leisure groups, peer support organizations and other programs that serve to strengthen the sense of community in Canada's gay and lesbian populations.

Another area of potential foundation support is the sponsorship of events or programs that have proven successful in other cities, those which would enjoy similar success in other Canadian centres with sufficient launch financing. An example of this is Calgary's Small Change... Big Changes event, which benefits the Southern Alberta HIV Clinic. The program, which raises funds through coins collected in keepsake piggy banks, is effective because of its simplicity and relatively low operating costs. The creation of the ceramic pigs, which change colour from year to year, is the greatest expense to Small Change... Big Changes. Other cities interested in pursuing similar campaigns would be eligible for funding consideration to help defray the hard costs of producing the piggy banks. Through such "sharing" programs, cities from coast to coast could raise significant funds in their own communities, as well as raise the profile of a "united" gay Canada.

Existing community support services and organizations are also potential beneficiaries of the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation. If such an organization wished to expand or improve the services they offer their community, they, too, would be considered for funding disbursement. Examples of expansion/improvement projects would include such things as the creation of youth peer support groups or the development of educational HIV/AIDS prevention programs where they did not exist previously.

Outlooks publisher Roy Heale presents Millennium Community Foundation co-chairs Lorrie Murphy and Bill Brooks with a startup cheque.

photo by Simon Burroughs

One of the greatest arenas for expression and discussion within the community is in the arts. Sadly, programs and productions with overtly gay themes are often excluded from traditional corporate funding. An example of this would be the withdrawal of sponsorship by large companies for works such as Tony Kushner's award-winning play *Angels In America*. In such cases, theatre companies requesting financial assistance to replace lost sponsorship monies will also be eligible for support from the foundation.

Clearly, given the scope of eligible groups and programs as outlined, and the number of communities across Canada, funding for the foundation will be key. An initial donation of $2000 was made by *Outlooks* newspaper as seed money for the launch of the Millennium Foundation. Further support for the project is expected to come in the form of donations, bequests in wills and special fundraising programs.

As the foundation is national, allocation of monies will be handled on a province-by-province basis, with funds raised in each province going back into their respective communities. Also, as the foundation develops, further plans for the creation of funds will be made known.

Applications for foundation grants will be handled through a two-tier submission program. In order to be considered for funding support, applicants must fall into one of the categories outlined earlier, as well as meet foundation guidelines.

Application forms will be made available to interested parties by contacting the foundation offices directly via telephone, fax, post or e-mail (see below). Once the first form is filled out and returned, and the submission is deemed eligible under the existing criteria, a full registration application will be mailed out. Once this second form has been completed and returned, groups and organizations that best fulfill foundation guidelines will be short-listed and submitted for approval by the board of directors.

Once selections have been made, successful applicants will be notified by mail regarding their disbursement if funds are available.

Applications which do not meet foundation guidelines at the time of submission will also be notified by mail and invited to re-submit once the proper criteria have been met.

For an introduction to some of the faces that comprise the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation, please refer to page 20.

As it is with *Outlooks* newspaper, the foundation is always interested in receiving feedback and constructive criticism from the community at large. Comments, queries and concerns—as well as application requests—can be submitted in the following manner:

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Publisher's request

Here we are, safely landed in the 21st Century. So what happens now? The prophecies of doom and disaster proved to be wrong, so is it possible that this is the dawn of a new era where equality is not a brave new word? One thing is for sure, we all have to work together to strengthen and expand the gay and lesbian community. This growth has to come, in part, at the grassroots level with youth groups, telephone resource lines, fundraising events, pride week activities, art shows, theatrical productions, clubs and association aimed specifically at gay and lesbian participation. These kinds of activities provide strength and support which is needed in Canada from coast to coast, in both small towns and large cities.

With this in mind, I ask for your support of the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation. This is truly a national vehicle which will encourage growth in grassroots activities leading to the largest "Gay Guide to Canada" we have ever seen. As new projects are funded across the country, each community will benefit from a wider range of support services or activities. This, in turn, will promote a healthier understanding of who we are and why there is no reason to be afraid of us, even though we represent a large minority group within Canada.

The foundation needs your donation, no matter how small, in order to help fund new activities in your community. Each donor will become a foundation member and receive copies of the foundation's annual report, as well as other important announcements. So become a part of this important 21st Century initiative and help to ensure that the future belongs to us.

Vriend team honoured

On December 8, 1999, the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission named the legal team responsible for the Delwin Vriend victory as the recipient of this year's Suzanne Mah Award. The team, led by Edmonton lawyer Sheila Greckol, took the case to the Supreme Court of Canada and the court's decision resulted in changes to Alberta's human rights legislation. This, in effect, granted gays and lesbians in the province equal protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Other members of the legal team included Jo-Ann Holmes, Lyle Kanee, June Ross and Douglas Stollery.

In an award ceremony on December 9, to mark International Human Rights Day, Jo-Ann Holmes of Chivers, Greckol and Kanee Barristers and Solicitors accepted the award on behalf of the team. In her speech, she expressed the team's admiration for Delwin Vriend, "who showed so much courage and dedication in carrying the case for inclusion of sexual orientation as a ground of prohibited discrimination forward through the different levels of the courts."

She also acknowledged the support of Murray Billet, of the Gay and Lesbian Awareness Society, in helping bring the case forward. In closing, Holmes said that "our hope for the year 2000, the new century, the new millennium, is that everybody will come to support the understanding that all our lives are better when there is equal dignity and equal opportunity for all."

—Outlooks staff

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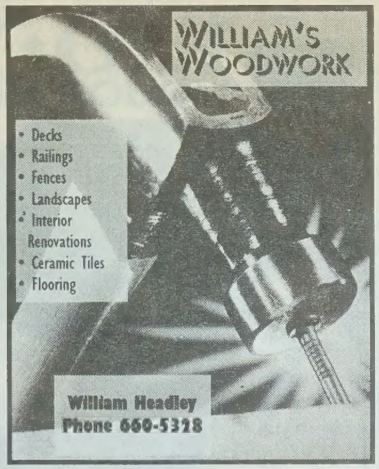

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Lesbian moms win

Another step forward has been taken in the battle for equality. With a recent ruling by a Calgary judge, gay and lesbian spouses can now adopt the children in their families. On November 26, Justice Peter Martin granted adoption rights to two lesbian couples, and charged the province of Alberta with their legal bills, to the tune of $300,000.

This follows the government's decision to drop its opposition last April, and takes advantage of legislation that followed. The *Child Welfare Act* was modified to expand the definition of step-parent, and now allows gay and lesbian spouses to assume that role. The province had previously barred all attempts at same-sex adoptions.

The inclusion of gays or lesbians as legal parents will clear custody rights and responsibilities, clarify inheritance of the children and also allow queer families to buy health insurance at family rates.

Justice Martin made it clear that his priorities weren't solely legal. His chief concern was to allow these children to remain in their stable and loving homes, calling the women "amply qualified," and "devoted parents."

On the flipside, it may be a little galling for some of these loving and capable parents (in all but the biological sense) to accept legal definition as a surrogate, but that is a feeling shared by step-parents everywhere. None can deny that this is a big change for Alberta families, and one that's long overdue.

—*Cory Loshney*

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Sky-high drama

by David Crosson

In the world of Canadian theatre, Sky Gilbert is one of a kind—possibly two if you consider 'drag' and 'non-drag' as separate entities. As the founder of Toronto's Buddies In Bad Times theatre company, Gilbert has been responsible for numerous hit plays, not to mention two novels, some films, and a full-length collection of poetry (*Digressions of a Naked Party Girl*, reviewed in *Outlooks*, January 1999).

As part of One Yellow Rabbit's upcoming High Performance Rodeo (January 6-30, 2000), Gilbert will be bringing his latest play—billed as "a very serious comedy about infection"—to Calgary from January 24-26. In an exclusive interview, *Outlooks* caught up with him over the phone prior to his visit.

Outlooks: Tell me about *The Birth of Casper G. Schmidt*—what prompted you to write it?

Gilbert: Well, it was actually written for very political reasons—I joined a group in Toronto called HEAL, a pretty radical AIDS organization that questions a lot of the traditional wisdom around HIV. I also read an article by a man named Casper Schmidt in a book called *The AIDS Cult*, and it puts forth the idea that AIDS is a mass depression, almost a mass hypnosis. That interested me very much and I began to think about the ways in which we're hypnotised in other parts of our lives, the way we go about our daily tasks and do things that have beliefs attached or accept certain things without questioning them.

Outlooks: How did you incorporate this idea into a theatrical work?

Gilbert: The play is about three people—a couple and a gay man that lives upstairs—and in the first part of the play they're influenced in certain ways by movies and plays and books that make them do things without thinking. As the play progresses, it becomes clear that the leading guy, who has obsessive-compulsive disorder, thinks that he's spreading AIDS all around, and that causes complications. It's a comedy, believe it or not.

Outlooks: As a community, is comedy our greatest weapon against AIDS for the time being?

Gilbert: I think it's our greatest weapon—period. It's our greatest weapon as queers: we have to have a sense of humour about the stuff that's hurled at us and it's traditionally the way we've dealt with it.

Outlooks: I read a piece you did for the *Globe & Mail* a couple of years ago about the "assimilation" of gay culture—have your views changed at all since then?

Gilbert: No! They'll probably never change and I think right now that they're more firmly entrenched than ever. What I find interesting is all these middle-class fags who aren't going to make a peep about any issues until they affect them personally, or until it affects them in a way they can talk about. A lot of these fags hang out in the kind of bars and bathhouses that are gradually being closed down, but they don't dare say anything because they're hypocrites. I feel that a lot of them think that "respectability" will actually give them rights! And I think that it's a much more fundamental problem that the Christian right has with us than just being respectable.

Outlooks: I understand from a past interview that you're not a big fan of Bert Archer's *The End Of Gay*—care to elaborate on that?

Gilbert: First of all, I think it's a really stupid book. I think there are many more that were written on the topic, before Bert wrote *his* book, that are at least a little bit intelligent. His book is just about his own experience as a bisexual and he extrapolates from that, since he's recently become 'bisexual', that the world is probably bisexual too. [Laughs.] To me that's just faulty reasoning and I certainly don't extrapolate from my own personal sexual desires what the rest of the world might be into. I think he's hopped on a very popular bandwagon right now, which is that sexuality is basically fluid and we're all on a continuum.

Outlooks: Governor General Sky Gilbert—what's on your agenda?

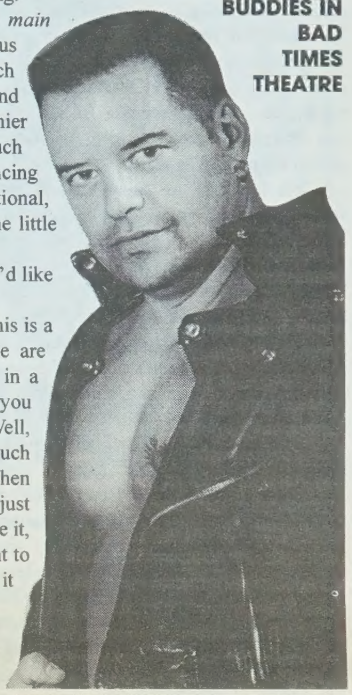
Gilbert: [Laughs.] I don't know if I can answer that—I don't even know what he does!

Outlooks: Okay: Sky Gilbert becomes the queen—you're in charge of everything.

Gilbert: The *head* queen, the *main* queen... Okay, I think I would focus society away from work, to try to teach people that pleasure is important and they need it; it makes them into healthier individuals. They should spend much more time watching art, and experiencing pleasure and nurturing their emotional, sexual side so they don't just become little automatons.

Outlooks: Is there anything you'd like to say prior to your visit to Calgary?

Gilbert: Well, just that I think this is a very funny play and I think people are really going to laugh. Every once in a while when you're a playwright, you write a play that just seems to... Well, you have your favourites that are much more esoteric and challenging and then you have a play like *Casper* which just seems to capture everybody. They see it, they love it, they laugh and they want to see it again—that's the kind of play it is.



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A new era of enlightenment?

by Darrin Hagen

If you're reading this article, I can afford to be smug. That means the world hasn't ended on the eve of destruction; Y2K was a vicious media joke and computerized civilization hasn't collapsed. Judgement day hasn't wiped out humanity and I, whom everyone called a cynic, was right.

It's business as usual, except for a few extremists involved in Doomsday cult suicide pacts. For most of us, it's back to living. The whole "God's gonna claim the sinners" stuff is receding further and further down the road of logic. And, ultimately, all the Doomsday prophets will shift their end-of-the-world calculations so they can continue to ask for donations, and churches will still argue about how far to extend Christian charity. Nothing's really changed, right?

But on the Eve of Destruction, the spiritual shaky ground in North America has experienced some quaking, some upheaval. Was the oncoming calendar change a factor in urging religious leaders to deal with some of the big issues that have plagued the flock for a few decades? Has Hell officially frozen over?

The end of 1999 saw some significant debate about homosexuality and Christianity. Everywhere, the gauntlet has been thrown down. Individuals were challenging centuries of dogma and demanding their right to worship within their own context.

In 1976, I watched the gay movement pick up steam, fuelled by such antagonists as Anita Bryant and Jerry Falwell. So no one was more surprised than I to hear that the Moral Majority leader had actually met with a group of 200 gay Christians to discuss their issues. Falwell and his friend, gay activist minister Mel White, put down their weapons for a change and agreed to find common ground at an anti-violence summit. As Falwell is discovering his "kinder, gentler" rhetoric, the church is heaving with resistance. Cracks are starting to show.

At the same time, also in America, a United Methodist pastor who defied his clergy by officiating the wedding ceremony of two men, was defrocked. The jury of thirteen Nebraska ministers unanimously convicted Rev. Jimmy Creech of violating church law. Creech refused to enter a plea. "I believe the law that prohibits pastors from celebrating holy unions with gay and lesbian couples is an unjust and immoral law," Creech rationalized. And on the eve of the decision, in an act of defiance, he presided over a recommitment ceremony of the two gay men. Creech predicted the

JERRY FALWELL

decision would "widen the wound of the soul" in the church.

For every step forward... Earlier this year, Presbyterian leaders rejected a measure to ordain non-celibate gays and lesbians. And, in Georgia, the Southern Baptists voted to expel two Atlanta-area churches for allowing homosexuals as leaders. Steps backward—but at least the issues are being discussed.

In the wake of the glacier-like movement of thought that is gradually changing the face of religion, new extremists appear. As Falwell welcomed his former enemies into his Thomas Road Baptist church, a now-familiar sight appeared and set up on the lawn, with three-foot-tall "GOD HATES FAGS" placards. The Rev. Fred Phelps is so extreme that even Falwell calls him a hatemonger.

According to Phelps: "He's saying I preach hate? You can't preach the Bible without preaching hate! ...Look here, the hatred of God is an attribute of the almighty; it is not an evil passion as it is with men." It's no surprise that Phelps has gotten so much attention; his antics make even the rightest-wing Christians look away in shame. But if the presence of a Phelps makes Falwell realize that we do need protection from that kind of abuse, then maybe we need him (the perfect example of rhetoric run amok). For God's sake, the man even protested at Sonny Bono's funeral because there was a lesbian in the family. How serious can anyone take him?

Religion, true to its fashion, is always a bit slow on the progress front. It wasn't so many years ago that the Vatican finally apologised for being mean about Galileo daring to presume that the earth revolved around the sun. To their credit, an apology is an apology—even if it is some five hundred years late. My prediction is that, eventually, they will update their views on homosexuality, abortion, sex and masturbation. In the meantime, we should be thankful for whatever change we see in our lifetimes. The religious right's most influential evangelists—Falwell and Pat Robertson among them—are seeking dialogue with gays and lesbians. Even if it was fear of the impending Judgement Day that scared them into finally seeking the truth, I'll take what I can get. Sure, they still want us to stop what we're doing; they still say "Hate the sin, not the sinner", but it's a start. It's a far cry from the insulting pulpit-smashing messages of hate that I—we—were subjected to, sitting in our living rooms in the mid-seventies.

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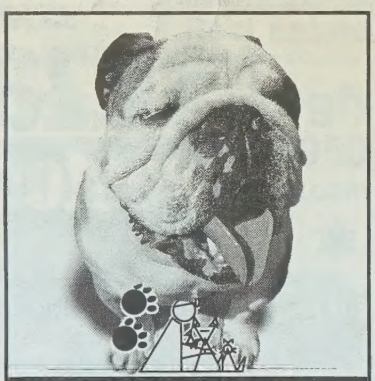

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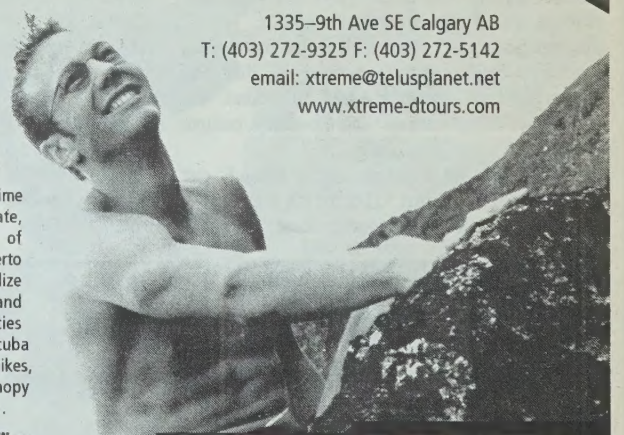

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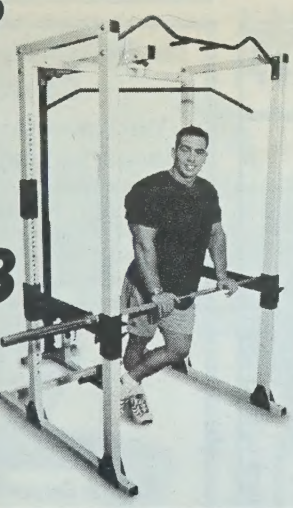

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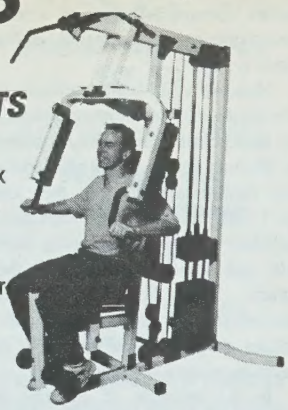

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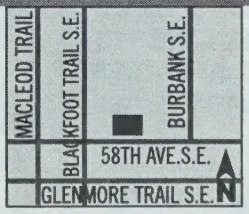

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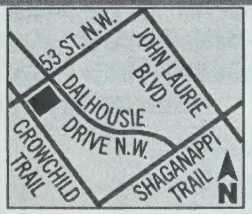

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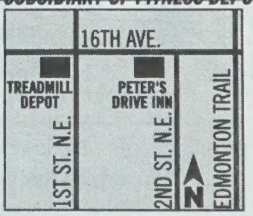

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What is normal?

by John Coulbourn

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me..."

I first heard that bit of doggerel from my mother's lips and, even then—as a tear-stained, no doubt, snotty child—I suspected that dear old mom was stretching the truth somewhat.

And after almost twenty years of pounding various keyboards for various employers, I'm certain of it.

Not that one has to be a writer to figure out that words are powerful things. Anyone who has ever heard the word 'fag' hurled out the window of a passing car or found peace in the phrase 'I love you, too,' knows how deeply words can cut into the heart and how quickly they can heal it.

Still, as someone who works with words daily, I've become a little obsessed by them and the way people use them.

Herewith, a few thoughts on a few words as we head into another century.

Have you ever wondered why so many people can't quite grasp the full meaning of the word 'equality'—or the fact that many people want it for themselves and yet are prepared to deny it to others. The latest example, at least in these parts, is a hue and cry raised by Toronto's Muslim community or, more precisely, a part of Toronto's Muslim community, upset at a new anti-homophobia program planned for Toronto's school system.

Now, we've all heard legitimate protests from portions of this same community about how their broader community is portrayed in the Western media. Not all Muslims are even fundamentalists, and they certainly aren't all terrorist-inclined, gun-toting reactionaries intent on keeping women in veils and society anchored in the 16th century. That's how they are portrayed, nonetheless, in most newscasts and in the vehicles of popular culture, be it movies, television or even literature.

In the interests of equality, they've demanded—and often received—the right to influence such portrayals and mitigate that negative stereotype.

Considering all of that, one would think they'd embrace the proposal currently in front of the Toronto school board, which is designed to "ensure no students have to be put down [Note: I don't think this phrase is used in the way one would when talking about sick livestock] based on race, sex, economic class or sexual orientation," according to board chairman Gail Nyberg.

But no. Instead, the Toronto District Muslim Education Assembly is determined to block it all because they aren't prepared to tolerate the teaching of tolerance when it comes to the gay community.

"What [gays and lesbians] do is not normal," says Idrahin El-Sayad, president of the group.

What Mr. El-Sayad fails to grasp is that 'normal' and 'equal' have nothing to do with each other in this context.

'Normal' is merely a word which reflects the largest part of a bell curve; in fact, the norm.

Wayne Gretzky was not a 'normal' hockey player nor was Albert Einstein's a 'normal' mind. Is that sufficient reason to deny them an equal right to live a dignified life in civilized society, sir?

Equality, on the other hand, is an absolute—at least in a perfect world. And a society that promotes equality but tolerates the exclusion of otherwise law-abiding portions of that society is not promoting equality at all.

El-Sayad's and his group's disapproval of our lifestyle may be (and, no doubt, *is*) based on religious beliefs, and while those beliefs are not 'normal' in Canadian society—where the 'norm' still reflects a Judeo-Christian sensibility which, in some cases is every bit as narrow—those beliefs are to be respected. Freedom of religion is one part of the equality Canada affords everyone.

It's a freedom that gives him every right

to practice his religion but, happily, no right whatsoever to inflict it. The same freedom we have on a sexual level: a right to sexual expression but no right whatsoever to impose the practice of that expression on anyone else.

In the end, one is forced to realize that on an historic continuum, the idea of a multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-faceted society of equals—a society like ours—is certainly not 'normal' either. Not in a world which still echoes of crusades, jihads, pogroms, inquisitions and ethnic cleansings. But Canada has chosen as a society to try to rise above those roots and, in this endeavour, Mr. El-Sayad, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. Put plainly: El-Sayad's rights to religious freedom extend only so far as my bedroom door—and neither of us has the right to promote intolerance.

That's not normal.

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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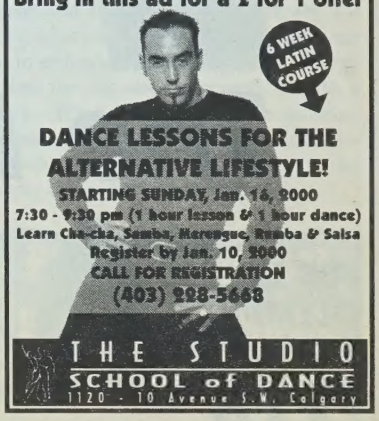

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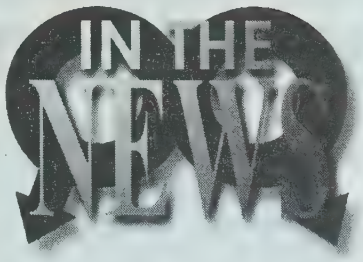

After a twenty-month hiatus, the Calgary Networking Club is gearing up once again to help connect businesspeople in Calgary's gay and lesbian community. Originally started eleven years ago as "Calgary Networking Discreetly", the CNC has grown to become an organization that allows entrepreneurs, business owners and any interested individuals the opportunity to forge the bonds that strengthen gay businesses in the city.

"This is wonderful way for people to meet and connect," says James Faulkner, one of the individuals responsible for re-grouping the CNC. "Groups like this are less intimidating than a bar environment and are particularly good for those who are just coming out."

The first meeting of the new group will be held upstairs at Money-Pennies Eatery and Bar (1742 10 Ave. S.W.) from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on February 1st. Subsequent meetings will take place at the same time on the first Tuesday of every month, starting in March. Money-Pennies will remain the base venue for the club.

Individuals and businesses wanting to get involved may do so by contacting Xtensions (777-9499) and entering box 2460 for more information. Membership in the CNC is $5.00 and the group is open to anyone in the community.

The Curtain Rises... again

With the success of the first annual The Curtain Rises... fundraiser still fresh in their minds, the board of the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton are making plans for the event's second year. The debut benefit, held September 11, 1999, was based on a Wizard of Oz theme. Volunteers and partygoers alike donned their best "Emerald City drag" and filled the lobby of the Citadel's Shocter Theatre to drink, nosh and bid on silent auction items in support of the GLCCE.

In anticipation of their second year, The Curtain Rises... organizers are seeking community involvement to build on the success of the first event. Any and all suggestions for an equally creative movie theme to characterize the 2000 fundraiser are most welcome. As well, volunteers are needed to ensure that all goes smoothly with the benefit, so that the GLCCE may continue to provide outreach and support to Edmonton's community with monies generated by this worthwhile event. Those wishing to in contribute their ideas, time and expertise to The Curtain Rises... and Edmonton's original community centre are asked to contact the GLCCE directly by fax (780-482-2855), or by e-mail (glcce@compusmart.ab.ca) or post (Box 1852, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2P2) by January 31, 2000. Interested individuals are also encouraged to submit their resumés for a new part-time position at the centre (99% confirmed at press time, thanks to a provincial lottery grant). As well, the GLCCE is seeking a logo design for the centre (in the spirit of the Nike swoop, the Microsoft flag, etc.) and welcomes submissions from the community.

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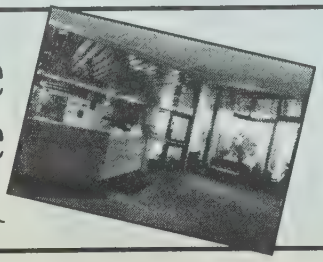
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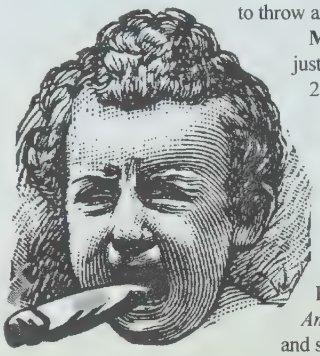
Interview of the millennium

by Cindy Filipenko

I had a dream that I met the Year 2000. He—for it was definitely a male being—looked like a slightly wiser version of the typical New Year's Baby. Sure, there was the sash and the cherubic visage, but there was definitely something else, something a little more worldly.

We sat down across from each other, sipped herbal tea and spoke of things both horrible and beautiful.

Me: [somewhat formally] Welcome, Year 2000. Thank you for thinking highly enough of us and our planet to allow us to get to know you. Over the past sixty years or so there have been times when it seemed Earth would conk out long before the advent of the 21st century.



2000: Well, thank you, Earthling. I have to admit that the last 1000 years, never mind the past 100 years, have been rough. But it looks like we made it.

Me: First of all, on behalf of all Earthlings, particularly those of the North American variety, I would like to apologize for Millennium Fever. People just wouldn't accept that the millennium doesn't happen until 2001. They just kept confusing the turn of the century with the turn of the millennium.

2000: [Gestures the sentiment away] Forget about it. Look, don't ruin anyone's party, just buy the decorations when they're ninety percent off and use them next year. If you want to apologize for something, apologize about how the word millennium has been misspelled. You got your conventional one "l" and one "n" spellings and then there's the typical mistake of jamming an extra "i" after the second "l". Personally, I blame that one on the metric system.

Millennium-schmillennium, that crap doesn't bother me as much as being referred to as Y2K. What am I? Some sort of rap master? If Year 2000 is too much of a mouthful, try 2000 AD. It sounds classier, sort of like throwing your degree after your name on your business card.

Anyway, now that we're done with the formalities, I basically looked you up because I wanted to get a homo's opinion on the last 100 years. And when it comes to opinionated homos, your name's one that always comes up.

I know in the last 1000 the big deal for you people would be the Rennaissance. Without that crazy little Italian art-fest, you would hardly have any famous names to throw around.

Me: Well Year—can I just call you Year? [Year 2000 nods his consent]. This century really has been the one for gays and lesbians. From the Paris salons of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas to Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, queer themes and sensibilities have had a huge impact on 21st century culture.

2000: That's true, you guys are artistic, there's no too ways about it. Now I can just hear the wails and moans about that being a stereotype. But as stereotypes go, I think it's a pretty flattering one. [Year 2000 reaches behind his ear and pulls out a large Cuban cigar which he proceeds to light.]

Me: Excuse me, but aren't you a little young to be smoking?

2000: Yeah, lady, I may look like a kid, but remember I'm 1,920 years older than your Grandma. Besides this is a dream and this is a little chunk of Freudian symbolism for you to figure out later... [clears his throat].

As I was saying... I want to know about general homo highs and lows of the last 100 years, that way I can guide the Fates for the next 100. I know you guys have had it rough for most of history—I mean every now and then you get an Ancient Greece—but basically existence has been pretty much of a grind for you people.

Me: [thoughtfully] The lows? Well, number one would have to be AIDS. Number two would be the increase of hate crimes in the '90s. And on a less serious note, number three would be lesbian mothers who insist on taking their badly-behaved toddlers to adult-oriented restaurants for Sunday brunch.

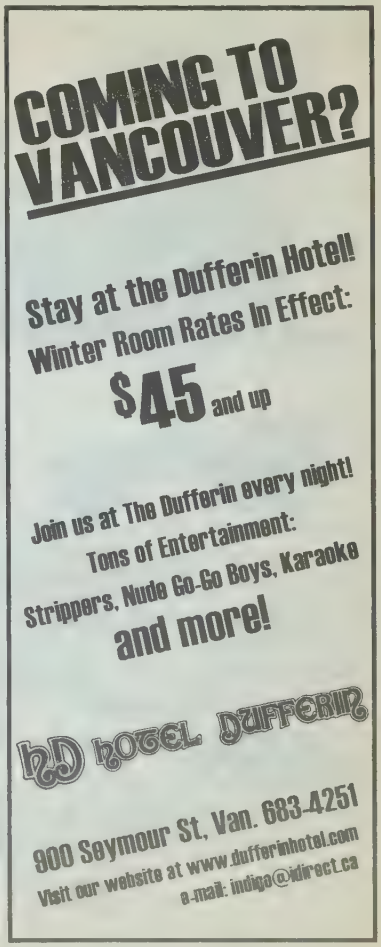
2000: [blows a smoke ring] That's fair: two heartbreaking occurrences and one that's radically annoying. What about the positive?

Me: I suppose the best thing that's happened is the fact that the majority of gay and lesbian Canadians have provincial human rights legislation protecting them and those who don't are free to move out of Alberta.

Everything that's really positive has to do with the fact that queers no longer have to live in denial. We don't have to be closeted anymore. The last thirty years has been a huge self-esteem exercise for us. We now have the guts to demand what we deserve.

2000: [smiling] How would you like full equality sometime in the next century? [Holds up his hand to prevent me from responding.] Now, I'm not saying it's going to be easy; frankly, some of the Fates tend to be a little homophobic. And I'm not saying it's going to be right away. But I think I can work something out. After I spend this year representing 2000, I kind of get to be the honourary chair for the century, guiding the progress... it's a perk.

I woke up with a start, my cat standing on my chest howling for breakfast. I turned over and noticed a smudge on my pillow. It was a chunk of cigar ash. Maybe we weren't going to go to hell in a handbasket. I got up feeling decidedly optimistic.



Programming the future

by David Crosson

At their most pompous, television critics have referred to the medium as "a mirror of our times" and the "soul of modern pop-culture." Since the fifties, the idiot box has truly been a reflection of society—good and bad—with many important events and social developments broadcast worldwide. We suspect the 2000 network lineup will be no different, with many new additions and shocking surprises on their way to delight and amuse. Here are a few predictions for the coming year.

• *Ally McBeal*'s Calista Flockhart will play the late Karen Carpenter in a movie of the week entitled *Thanks, That Was Delicious*, then blow away in a light breeze like wheat chaff, never to be seen again. Producers will then search high and low for a fresh, boney new face (preferably someone with -25% body fat) to take on the title role in another film: *Flockhart: Live And Let Diet*.

• Network television will erupt in a controversy similar to 'the *Roseanne* kiss' when pleas for *Will & Grace*'s male characters to have sex lives are answered. For the season finale, Eric McCormack and Sean Hayes will be seen on a double date,

ROSWELL'S AMOROUS ALIENS

being buggered by co-stars Debra Messing and Megan Mullaly wearing strap-ons. NBC will defend the episode, saying that the sex was "consensual and essentially heterosexual in nature." Even Falwell will have to agree. The whole incident will be forgotten in a matter of weeks.

• Spurred on by the extraordinary impact of Regis Philbin's new game show success, Kathie Lee Gifford will introduce a new program featuring high-risk gambling and tests of obscure knowledge. *Who Wants To Touch My Monkey?* will exceed the successes of Philbin's show based on the fact that many still slow down at the sites of major traffic accidents and sniff milk when they know it has gone off.

• Tragedy will strike "Must See TV" primetime lineup when the rest of the *Suddenly Susan* cast come to the realization that they are in a sitcom with Brooke Shields. All will commit suicide by drinking cyanide-laced San Pellegrino with a twist of lime.

• In the early spring, male hairdressers will take to the streets in protest over that curly grey thing on the side of Della Reese's head. Weeks later, fans will be shocked when the *Touched By An Angel* star is gunned down by some looney trying to get Matt Damon's attention. (The looney will later rationalize that "Jodie Foster's had enough, what with the kid and everything.")

• Producers of the alien teen drama *Roswell* will make a bold move during 'sweeps' week and acknowledge the devoted gay following the series has earned in the months since its debut. In an effort to bring greater realism to the show, lead cosmic humpsters Max and Michael will be incorporated in a subplot that has the two abducting members of the Roswell High football team and performing anal probes on them. Over a short period, other cast members and plotlines will be phased out in favour of this new story, with the show's title being changed from *Roswell* to *Rosebud*.

A host of imitators will follow (in the spirit of *Seinfeld* or *Friends* clones) and buggery will eclipse shooting rampages as the primary form of 'acting out' in U.S. high schools.

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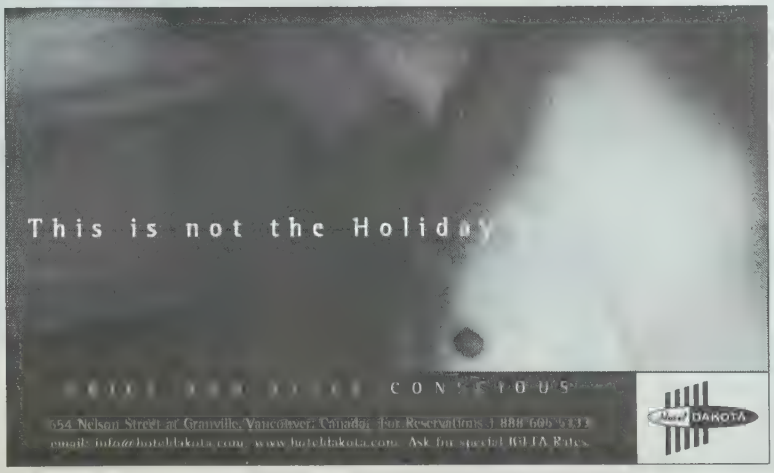

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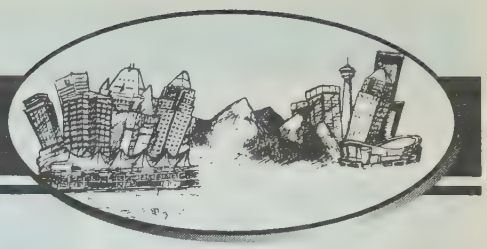

The Expo legacy

by Pat Johnson

There was nothing particularly gay about Expo '86, the world's fair to which British Columbia "invited the world" thirteen years ago.

For the most part, it was gaudy and kitschy, like a Disneyland that's ready to pack up and leave after its eight-month stint.

Oh sure, Expo was 'gay' in the 19th century meaning of the term: it was very merry. And certainly it was a hit with gay men and lesbians from Vancouver and abroad.

There were hot guys from all over the world arriving daily in our city and that, for whatever else the world's fair wrought, was reason enough to party.

Some of the "attractions," however, were merely fodder for gays to sharpen their claws. The pavilion of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, for example, was basically a room with a few travel pictures on the wall.

The Cuba pavilion had a few cigars and that was about it.

The Soviet pavilion, which opened about the same time the Chernobyl nuclear reactor had a melt down, chose unfortuitously, to highlight the modern advances of Kiev, the city that had the misfortune of being just down the road from the ill-fated plant.

Expo, the Social Credit government promised, would showcase the city and initiate a renaissance previously unknown in the city.

Certainly, Vancouver has changed markedly in the past decade, with a massive influx of people, a huge rise in film production and a not-entirely-quantifiable improvement in world perception of what was once known as Saskatoon-by-the-sea.

But many of those people who came to Vancouver in the past decade were influenced more by the impending handover of Hong Kong to China than they were by the dappled afternoons on English Bay or any residual affection for the Expo experience. Tourism, probably, benefited the most from Expo, with repeat visitors and word of mouth accounting for additional tourists, to say nothing of the new cruise ship facilities that were completed in conjunction with the fair.

Attentive readers might be wondering about now where all of this is headed.

"How gay is this?" one may well ask.

Well, one unintended consequence of Expo '86 has had a very dramatic effect on the city's gay community.

When the government decided to hold a world exposition, they set about to transform a sprawling urban industrial waterfront into a theme park-type string of attractions. Topsoil was hauled in to cover up the residual unpleasantries that tend to accumulate over decades of industrial use and they gussied up what had been a no-man's-land stretching along what is now some of the country's most desirable residential real estate.

And therein lies the rub. Say what we will about the Socreds (homophobic, simple-minded hayseeds, for example), they certainly turned around the Vancouver skyline.

Vancouver's downtown peninsula had a seamy underbelly of dirty under-utilized industrial land for which self-respecting homosexuals had no use or even frame of reference. It wasn't pretty.

It's pretty now. There are gleaming towers of residential splendour supported by elaborate top-of-the line shops, including a grocery store whose claim to fame is flying in $100 loaves of bread nightly from Paris. ("$100 a loaf for day-old bread," said one colleague.) And the fags are moving in, lock, stock and Roche Bobois.

You see, what the Socreds *hadn't* considered was that the Expo site was just a hop, skip and a mince from the West End, Vancouver's gay "ghetto". A few American tourists made the connection halfway through their first beer at the Gandydancer, but that's another story. When it came time to sell off the land to a Hong Kong developer so he could sell back to us fabulous apartments at fabulous prices, who would be the ideal market but those who were looking to move on up from their cramped 1950s walkups or 1970s high-rises (affectionately dubbed such colourful names as Stack of Fags and Vaseline Tower by their inhabitants)?

Of course, not everyone considers the erection of endless high-rise towers to be a positive development. Plenty of lesbians (and gay male vegetarians) prefer the single-family life in the Commercial Drive area of East Vancouver, where the cavernous 1940s houses of large Italian families have given way to main floor suites with up and down sublets.

For the high-density fags who prefer downtown life and all it has to offer, though, the new developments in the area the city planners call Downtown South ("Where's that?" "The old Expo lands." "Oh, yeah.") are so 'this week.' Although life in the West End and Downtown South can be pretty cheek-by-jowl (and not everyone is complaining about that, either), Vancouver is nothing if not vigilant about human amenities in urban planning. The whole development is highlighted by an impressive new park and ribboned by one of the true gems of the city, an extension of the Stanley Park seawall that runs uninterrupted from one end of the development to the other, ensuring that the public always has access to the waterfront.

It is not perfect, of course—no place is. But it's nice.

There are display centres operating all hours to lure new buyers for planned further developments, but the building frenzy has slowed down a bit. You see, the economy in B.C. is in a bit of a tailspin and even the finest geography and almost complete absence of snow cannot compensate for a job. Especially in a place where the condos run easily to half-a-million dollars. Barristas would probably have to double-up to afford one.

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OUT & ABOUT IN EDMONTON

VOCAL STYLINGS: Henry Williams (right) with Warren at the Boots & Saddles anniversary celebration.

BUDDY'S BEVY: The cast of the Buddy's staff Christmas show.

PERFECT ANGELS: The gospel according to the ISCWR.

BAR BOYS: Chris and Saen at the Boots anniversary.

Planning an event in Edmonton? Contact us at 447-3006 and we'll see about getting it covered in Out & About.

READY FOR TAKEOFF: Cindy, drag king of Secrets, belts one out at The Best Little Whorehouse show.

WHOREHOUSE HOEDOWN: Crooning cowboys at the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose show.

GETTING THEIR KICKS: The best little chorus line in Texas at Buddy's Pub.

OUT & ABOUT IN CALGARY

COMING-OUT PARTY: SHARP Foundation board members Brian Huskins (left) and Mark Randall make their drag debut as Anita Kitchen and D'Amanda Refund respectively.

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Out & About photographer Andrew Clelland (left) with Rudy Labuhn at the Detour grand re-opening party.

BIG HAIR, BIG HEART: Erica at the World AIDS Day fund-raiser.

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HARPER VALLEY T&A: Mr. Devon Mills in Trashablanca mode at the Donnie Peters memorial tribute show.

EDITORIAL MEETING: (above) *Outlooks* editors Bill Brooks (left) and David Crosson in full swing at Money Pennies at the *Outlooks* Christmas party.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT: Sandy St. Peters doing a 'floor' show in memory of Donnie Peters.

GROUP DYNAMIC: The cast of the memorial benefit show.

AESTHETIC VISION: *Outlooks* arts writer Scott Clark (left) and photographer Simon Burroughs get into the festive mood.

Homo-cidal Hollywood thriller

by Benjamin Peters

Matt Damon told *The Advocate* recently that Brad Pitt "is incredible to look at. Period. If I were gay, he would be one of the posters on my wall."

Stop the presses. Is Matt Damon coming out?

Is there actually some truth to the rumors that he and Ben Affleck are lovers?

Is the web site dedicated to their gay relationship for real and not just wishful thinking after all?

Wait, let's take a look at some more of that interview: "There would be nothing wrong if Ben and I were a couple—except that we're not."

Then why is Matt even toying with *Advocate* readers? The answer is simple: Hollywood's golden boy is currently starring in *The Talented Mr. Ripley,* an erotic thriller.

It's the story of Tom Ripley, a shy, closeted gay man who becomes obsessed with the sexy, womanizing playboy Dickie Greenleaf.

How obsessed? Well, if Tom Ripley can't have Dickie as his lover, then he'll just have to settle on *becoming* him. That, of course, means dispensing of Dickie and everyone who stumbles onto the truth.

Damon insists he had no qualms about playing a homosexual psychopath. Think: a 1950s Andrew Cunanan, a man so uncomfortable in his own skin that he only feels comfortable being someone else.

"I never considered playing Tom Ripley a brave career move. I'm not some macho male star who has to worry about his sex-symbol status," Damon stresses.

Ripley is an incredible role written and directed by Anthony Minghella who chose this as his first movie after *The English Patient*.

"I would have been a fool to have turned it down because Ripley is a gay character," Damon says.

Ripley was also filmed in 1961, with French hunk Alain Delon playing the sinister psychopath.

"That was such a mistake," says director Minghella. "Alain Delon was an incredibly sexy man. There is no way he'd want to be someone else. It's obvious from that first scene with him sunbathing on the boat that he has it all already."

Minghella felt that even Damon was a bit too charismatic to be the character, so he asked the actor to shed thirty pounds, wear unflattering clothes and big, thick glasses.

The object of Ripley's obsession is played by British hunk Jude Law, who Damon concedes is "one handsome devil." He recalls how "the make-up people used to cover Jude in bronze make-up every day while they were painting me white in the next chair. Talk about getting an inferiority complex."

In one scene, Ripley and Dickie Greenleaf are playing chess, while Dickie is soaking in a tub of hot water. Ripley says how cold he's feeling and suggests perhaps he could get into the tub with his friend. It's the first time he tries to express his lust for Dickie.

Dickie says "You want the tub, you can have it," and gets out.

While he stands naked in the bathroom, Dickie glances back to see if Ripley is checking him out. It's a very telling scene, and one that Minghella plays for absolute honesty.

BACKBITING, ANTHONY MINGHELLA, GWYNETH PALTROW AND JUDE LAW IN *THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY*

CUTE COUPLE: MATT DAMON AND JUDE LAW

photo by Phil Bray

It's honesty that has compelled Law to do major nude scenes in three of his films including *Wilde*, and a most daring nude scene on the New York stage.

"If nudity is essential to the story I have no qualms about dropping my clothes," Law says. "I just don't want to do those silly love-making scenes in which actors roll around trying to hide their privates."

In the Purple Noon (1961) adaptation of *Mr. Ripley*, not only is the sexuality of the character blurred, but the ending is changed to have Ripley pay for his crimes. Not so with Minghella's version.

"It's the ending that Patricia Highsmith wanted and there was only one ending ever filmed. Those rumors about an alternate ending are completely fabricated," Minghella says. "Why would I be true to the sexual themes and then tack on a convenient ending? It wouldn't make sense."

Sydney Pollock, who produced *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, admits that until Minghella came on board the project, Paramount Studios wanted the film to downplay Ripley's homosexuality.

"Essentially, they asked if the story could be told if Ripley was heterosexual or bisexual," Pollock says. "They were very worried about casting a star [if they couldn't] sell him as a sex symbol, as they did in the French movie. Paramount wanted it to be a thriller without a sexual subplot."

Minghella was originally hired to write the screenplay.

Pollock recalls that the first draught he sent to Highsmith thrilled the author. She unfortunately died before she learned that Minghella was also going to direct the film.

Highsmith, who was a lesbian, never got proper recognition for her powerful style and daring subject matter. Her first novel, *Strangers on a Train*, was a huge hit for Alfred Hitchcock—but she only received a paltry $8,000 for the screen rights.

The Talented Mr. Ripley was such a huge success that Highsmith brought the character back for four more novels.

Though she wrote more than twenty novels, Highsmith always maintained he was her favorite character. She refused to accept that Ripley was insane or even a psychopath.

"He is a rather civilized person who kills when he absolutely has to," she insisted.

It was only in 1991, when it was clear that she was a lesbian, that Highsmith admitted she had penned *The Price of Salt*, one of the most famous lesbian novels of the 1950s. She had published it under the name Claire Morgan.

The talented Ms. Highsmith created *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, and it took the talented Mr. Minghella and the talented Mr. Damon to bring it to the screen in all its perverse, subversive glory.

Brian Mahoney & John McNeill

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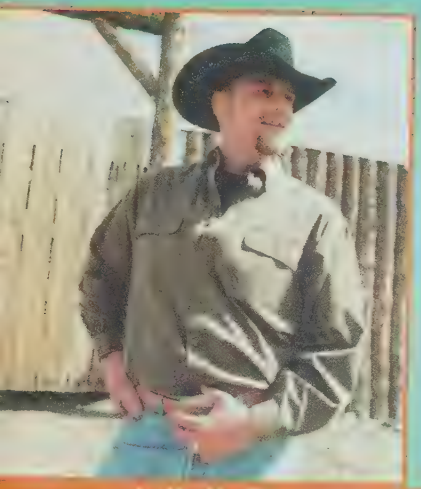

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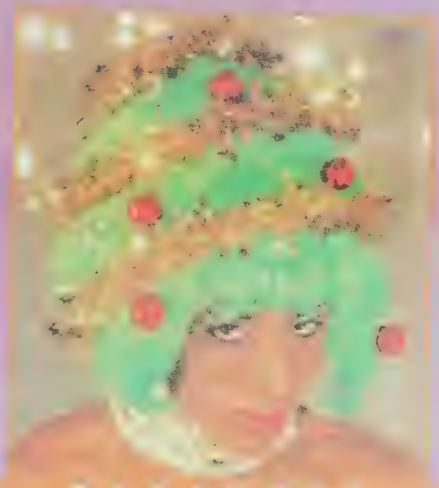

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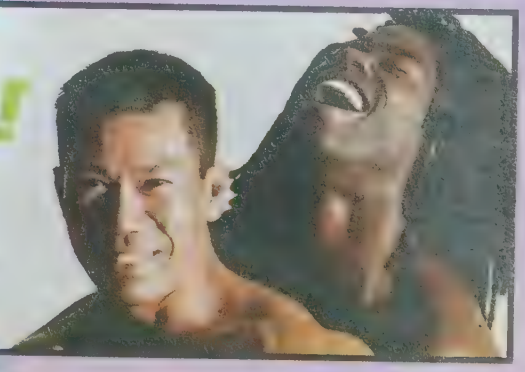

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Faces of the foundation

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Shown here are the founding directors.

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HOROSCOPE

by Charlene Lichtenstein

I've been handed the daunting task of predicting events for 2000—the next millennium. Sticklers say that the millennium begins in 2001, but any excuse to poke around a year early will do. Gay2K? Hey, Y-not?

Impressive planetary events abound: in February, a solar eclipse will deliver surprises! In May, Jupiter and Saturn will multiply our life lessons. At the same time, seven planets will line up in bullish Taurus. Stubborn! No matter what sign you are, expect a boost from these cosmic events. So keep your assets liquid, stock up on tunafish and read ahead to see how the planets are going to corrupt your hard drive this next year.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Love: The emphasis is on balancing friendships with personal needs this year. Someone you trust will disappoint you during the eclipse. How about a cheap and tawdry affair this summer? Okay—it won't be cheap.

Money: Gay Rams should check their bottom line when planets line up in Taurus and tempt self-indulgence. This planetary conga line will eventually bode well for professional plans because the fixed energy stops at nothing once it's on track. Choose wisely...

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Love: Between the February eclipse and the summer's Taurean line-up, queer Bulls will have ample opportunity to graze at assorted 'meet' markets. Strut your stuff. Wear clean underwear—or none at all...

Money: Interestingly, more emphasis is placed on money than love this year. Dough will evaporate during the eclipse but magically reappear in the summer once you regain your fiscal common sense. Splurge? Fergitaboutit!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Love: The eclipse will broadcast your most intimate secrets to the galaxy. Closeted Twins will be kaput and good thing, too: liberation is liberating! Imagine a dreamboat this summer with all those bullish planets. Haul it into port, you old salt.

Money: You'll be an easy touch this year and tempted to spend on expensive trinkets and nonsense. What the hell; you only live once. There are those who will truly need your help and those who will be lazy sponges. Squeeze 'em to find out which is which.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Love: Friends will lead you into mischief, especially during the eclipse. Will you lose your heart to a loser? Pink Crabs are advised to dance with the group dynamic through the summer. Romance will be highlighted and so will you.

Money: Cash will flow a little too easily early in the year when the eclipse makes you a sucker for a sob sister. There are worse things in life, but try to save for a rainy day. Or a fabulous Taurean summer blow-out.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Love: 2000 is a pivotal growth year. Partnership issues will come to the fore with the eclipse and single cubs will be swept off their paws. Summer romance will be found on the job. Who woulda thought?

Money: You'll be propelled into the limelight in 2000 so make it pay off. Professional propulsion is assured in May, but set firm foundations beforehand. Gay Leos are top of the heap. Which heap?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Love: Torrid romance is there for the asking. Common sense will conflict with intuition during the eclipse so look before you leap. Travel this summer to snag your quarry. The most interesting people will be found in the most interesting places.

Money: Queer Virgos will amass a small fortune if they adhere to a strict investment plan. The eclipse will bring a shake-up on the job. You'll get nothing for nothing during the Taurus pile-up this summer. Remember, hard work pays off, laziness cashes you out.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Love: Romance will be a mixed bag, especially during the eclipse when pink Libras wear their hearts on their sleeves. Be discerning, honey: this summer will be a hotbed of sexual activity—just don't restrict yourself to the bed.

Money: Creative pursuits will reap big rewards, intrinsically and monetarily. Where will your gay muse lead you during the wild eclipse? You'll try to adhere to your bottom line this summer, but planets will tempt you to reach into other people's pockets. Hmmm.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Love: Gay Scorps have their share of emotional tension throughout 2000 as the eclipse unleashes unresolved home and family issues. Do what you have to do. All will be forgiven by the summer, you charmer you.

Money: Planning on a move? Wait until after the eclipse. By the summer, the planetary trail in Taurus will lead to increased expenses for your feathered nests. How much does domestic bliss cost? Don't ask!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Love: Blurting out your intentions will not have the intended effect during the eclipse. Mouthy gay Archers will be hoisted on their own petards. Are they clean? Meet your match this summer at the gym. You lucky thing!

Money: If you work hard this year, it will pay off handsomely. The summer crush of Taurean planets will turn up the juice on the job. Avoid nasty comments as events unfold; a slip of the tongue will slip you up—at work.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Love: What you value in life will be due for reassessment during the eclipse. It's a new millennium, so look at life from a different angle: a new "rainbow you" will attract multitudes. Summer fun is heated, intense and wild. Go for it!

Money: Gay Goats can be tightwads, but the eclipse will loosen your wad. There may be a bit of waste, so dole out your treasure discerningly. Fun has its profitable side this summer, so promise to party hearty, you party animal you.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Love: The eclipse in your own sign will either resolve festering issues or create new ones! Aqueerians will transform themselves this year with a new look. Good thing: sexy new lovers will beat a path to your door this summer. Is your welcome mat clean?

Money: Put your money where your mouth is. Gay2K is a time of action and implementation. Make your mark in the summer when a line of practical planets will help you build for the future. Build a pink palace.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Love: Protect your heart during the eclipse. Rainbow Fish will be swept off their feet by someone who disappoints. Save your soft kisses for the summer, when planets stroll through sensual Taurus. Ask and you shall receive. No names please!

Money: You'll be tempted to take profits in February but don't. Monetary matters will be temporarily clouded during the eclipse. Wait. Revisit your gains this summer when seven planets bunny hop through practical Taurus. Can money buy love? Let's try...

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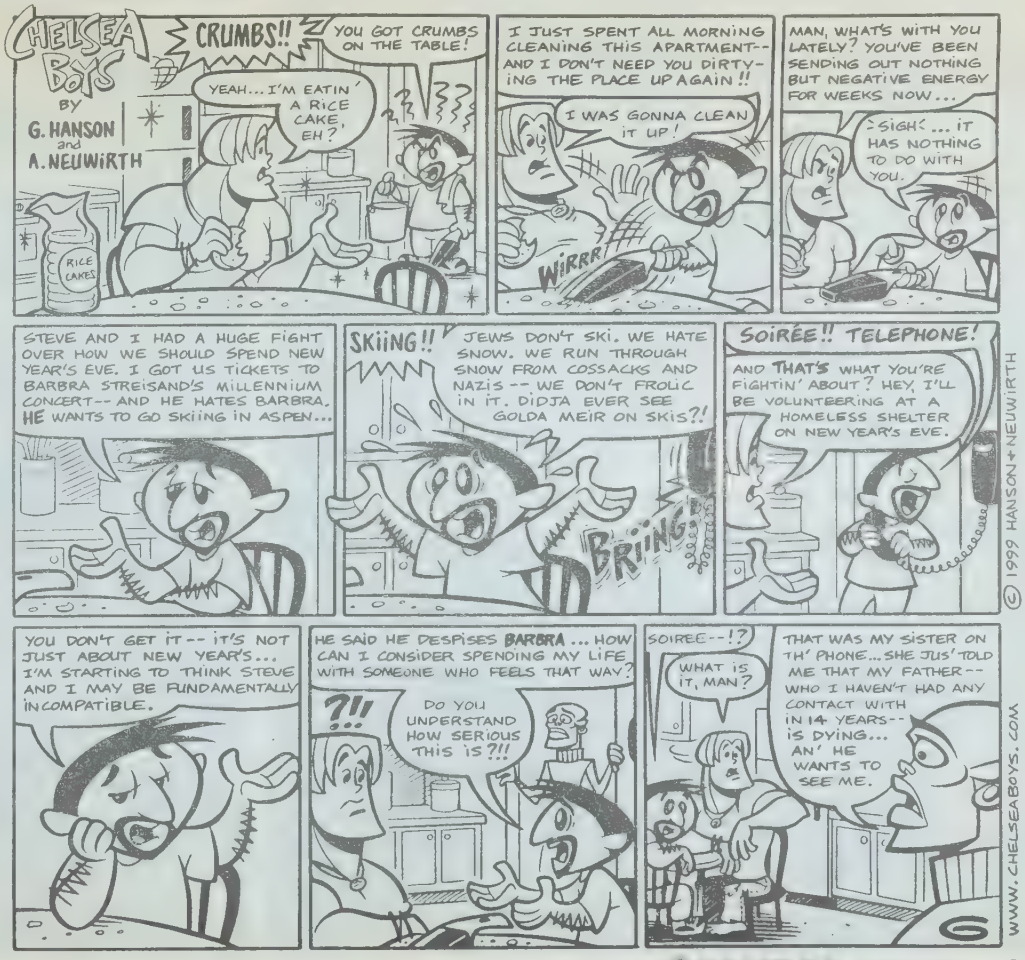

DON'T YOU WISH?

Morgan

Morgan is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and is currently working in fashion.

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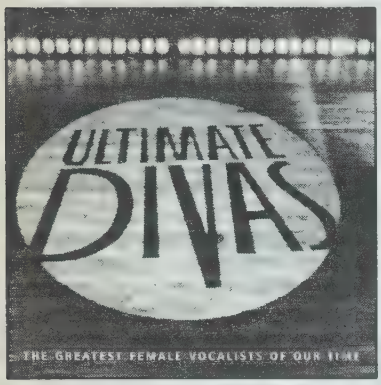
REVIEWS



by David Crosson

As the calendar rolls over to "double zero," it's still hard to accept that there are still so many misconceptions held about gay men in the general population. Some of them are negative: we're slutty, petty and enjoy diddling children. Some of them are positive: we have more money, impeccable taste and larger-than-average penises (so says David Suzuki—keep up the good work, Doc). And some are just really a matter of circumstance and perception, such as the notion that all red-blooded fags love a diva.

It is this thinking that has resulted in the compilation CD *Ultimate Divas*, an album that seems to have been targetted toward bored housewives and—for better or worse—male homosexuals. In this instance, I vote for 'better'.

I'm not sure what the qualifying criteria were for this disc, but it seems that a respectable number of supernova songbirds, past and present, made the cut. Ella Fitzgerald, Annie Lennox, Dionne Warwick, Dinah Washington—they're all here, in a collection of songs potent enough to get a lumberjack vamping and lip-synching at a kitchen party.

Diana Ross' "I-woke-up-in-the-wet-spot" anthem Touch Me In The Morning is a highlight, as is Gladys Knight's Midnight Train To Georgia. Whitney Houston weighs in with I Have Nothing, which could have also easily been I Will Always Love You—both feature that breathy trembling 'you-oooo' on which she has based a career, as well as the soaring, pull-no-vocal-punches belt-out we've all come to expect. It's guilty pleasure at its best.

Disappointingly, Aretha Franklin serves up a rendition of Nessun Dorma that is both painful and perplexing. Don't get me wrong: I love Aretha and would donate *both* my kidneys to her (even if it were just for cooking), but this song is awful. That powerful voice of hers is nothing short of miraculous on such classics as Think and Respect (I know, too upbeat for a "diva" song, but what about Natural Woman?) but in this context it is just strained and more than a tad precious. The applause at the end was likely a gesture of appreciation for getting it over with in less than four minutes.

Perhaps the most puzzling thing on this great album is the rather insulting inclusion of Mary J. Blige, whose drunken-sounding rambling on Not Gon' Cry is broken up by what sounds like an audition tape for back-up vocalists. Who did she have to screw to make the cut? They might as well have put Britney Spears on the roster. Eartha Kitt thankfully hasn't yet got a grave to spin in, but the revelation that Blige made the cut before her might well put her in one.

Despite the blunders with Blige and Franklin, *Ultimate Divas* is a hot little disc, one worthy of inclusion in the most die-hard fan's collection or the perfect "coming out" gift for fresh new fags. Hurry up and snap it up before the lumberjacks do.

Jeni

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"Inside Out" (a.k.a. the Youth Group) meets every Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the common room of the Old Y, 223 12 Ave. SW

Thursdays are for meeting. The first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. the Bisexual Network sits, while every 2nd and 4th Thursday SheQ, our women's coming out group, gets together, also at 7:30 p.m.

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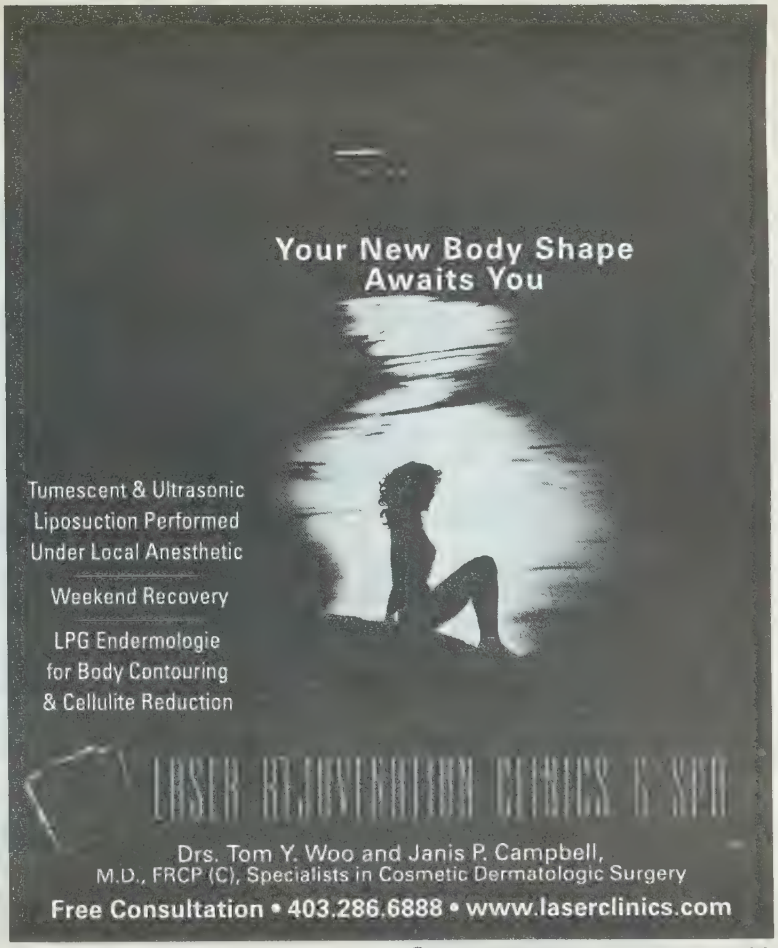


Net profits

by Norm Sacuta

These days, creating an Internet business is hardly news; everything from shopping to sex to groceries are being marketed on the Web, and it seems that most every new public offering on stock exchanges relates in some way to e-commerce.

What makes news is when a David decides to enter one of the most established Internet markets to challenge the Goliaths of the industry. That's been happening in Calgary, with the establishment and expansion of Calgary On Line (COL), now the third largest internet service provider (ISP) in the city.

ISPs are the bread and butter of e-commerce itself, since they are the very companies that provide access to the Web. As such, they are also the most competitive of all Internet industries, with such heavyweights as America On-Line and Shaw Cable fighting for a market share.

COL, not to mention the newly added Edmonton On-Line and Vancouver On-Line, are part of a larger company that has been linking many of the smaller, local ISPs into a common network that will allow travellers access to their Internet accounts across the continent. The company also provides services for consumers in the areas of website design, consultations, seminars and domain access.

The president of the newly formed COL Communications Inc. is Robert Maguire, a entrepreneurial Calgarian and gay man. COL started as a 'mom-and-pop' operation, running on a private server in someone's house. As its business expanded in the mid-'90s, the original owners saw the need for both capital and better equipment. Maguire and some fellow investors became involved when the banks would not. Maguire spoke with *Outlooks* about the success of COL, the Internet as a tool for gays and lesbians, and what the future holds for his company.

Outlooks: What are the benefits of choosing a smaller ISP such as COL over a larger one? You're going against some really big Internet providers with AOL.

Maguire: Anybody can offer Internet service; that part of it is easy. The difficult part is being able to provide the actual service to the client. You call some of our competitors—and I won't name them—but you call them at ten or eleven o'clock at night because your email isn't working or you can't make a connection, and you're going to get a tape-recording saying "Our office hours are between nine and five", or "Our tech support is between nine and nine; please call back then." When you go with a smaller ISP there's a bit of individualized and personalized service. With us you get twenty-four-hour tech support, and it's live tech support. The voice may be just a wee bit groggy when you call at four in the morning, but it's going to be a voice. If we have to come down to the office to reset the servers, as a result of your phone call telling us that the mail isn't working, then we do it. The other advantage is that when you call up and say, "Hi, it's Bob Brown" generally, there's someone here in the office who knows you, who's dealt with you, and things are on a first-name basis. We know what your settings are, what your computer looks like, so it's easier for us to provide your tech support.

Outlooks: You recently expanded into Edmonton and Vancouver—do you think some of that personal touch might be lost in such an expansion? How are you handling that?

Maguire: We're handling it by having physical offices there and, for the most part, you're going to be dealing with somebody in that city and he's going to be responsible for your account. The tech support at night will be done down here in Calgary. But we still have enough information from set-up data that we receive that we'll still be dealing with things in a friendly and efficent manner. We're not going to be asking what your logon name is, and we're going to be keeping track of what problems you've encountered in the past so that there's a record.

Outlooks: How many subscribers do you have in Calgary at the moment?

Maguire: We're up to just over a thousand.

Outlooks: What about COL would attract a gay or lesbian client over any other Internet provider? Is there anything specific?

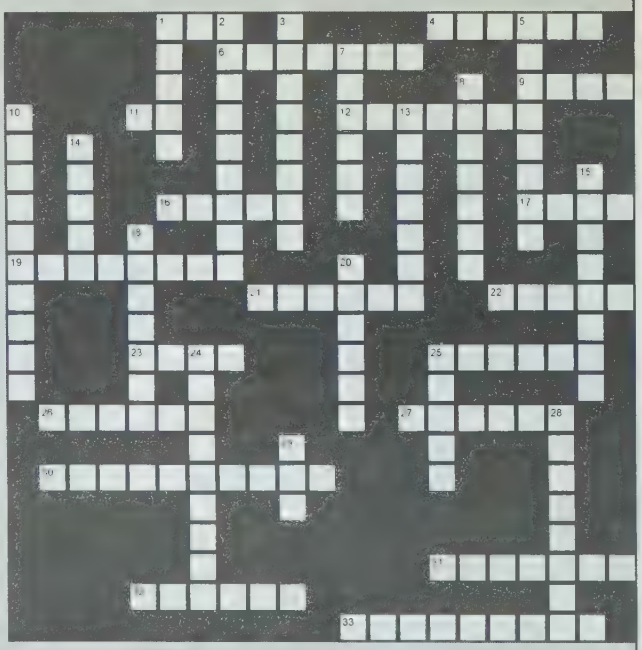
Maguire: One of the things is that we're gay friendly. We've got a number of clients that are gay, and I would not allow any of my staff to do or say anything, or to act in a manner that would indicate a prejudice towards any minority. To me that would be grounds for immediate termination. And, because I'm gay, the staff here are gradually

...continued on page 25

QUEERWORD

clues & words by Outlooks staff

answers on Page 31



ACROSS

1. Mr. Garfunkel, Mr. Linkletter, or a cultural category
4. Not a flute, but a champagne
6. Mr. El-Sayad of the TDMEA (first name)
9. Not *Making Sex* but *Making* ___
11. *South Park* homo-hero: Big Gay ___
12. Online entrepreneur featured this month: Robert ___
16. Alternate spelling of 'woman'
17. AIDS-era film from 1986
19. Backstreet, 98° and N'Sync are all considered ___
21. Loved orange juice, hated fags
22. Sammy Jr., Vaginal or *Garfield* creator Jim
23. Vancouver's '86 extravaganza
25. Defrocked United Methodist pastor: Jimmy ___
26. Number of people on a jury, eggs in a carton, or inches in a lie
27. Gertrude's main squeeze: Alice B
30. Outlooks Millennium Community ___
31. Not *The English Patient* but *The English* ___
32. The Toronto District ___ Education Assembly
33. Day of reckoning or ruling of magistrate

DOWN

1. Computer company, Eve's bane, or soft green
2. Vitriolic gay e-zine: *Holy* ___
3. 1980 flick starring Al Pacino as a "leatherman"
5. These boys all have "dates" (centre spread)
7. Cinematically speaking, Michael Onthean was wild about this Harry
8. Lowest-risk oral activity
10. This artist was out of place on *Ultimate Divas*
13. Sullivan's partner or showman Sky
14. This month's horoscope focuses on love and ___
15. This 'twelve' was major for 2000
18. This Jerry's not as funny as Seinfeld
20. Country in which gay groups will benefit from the OMCF
24. Child molesters are often known as sexual ___
25. Our coverboy has a big ___
28. "Direction-wise" they're the crankiest Baptists
29. Porn-star Ryan or Mr. Mulder

...continued from page 24

learning to deal with our clientele and recognize that people are going to call up with unusual requests about websites and postings that might not have been encountered six months ago.

Outlooks: Computer companies, such as Apple and Microsoft, were some of the first to introduce same sex benefits, and the IT industry in general has been very gay friendly. What's your own experience been as a gay man?

Maguire: It's been easy for me. Anyone who's in this business recognizes that this is the only industry that is world-wide, cross-border, and actually has no borders or boundaries. Our tolerance level for unusual individuals or unique requirements is far greater than it is for smaller companies or "normal" companies—if you want to call it that. There's also a big thing about censorship and discrimination on the net. You'll find that people who have been on the Internet for a number of years are far more tolerant towards minorities. We police ourselves and act in a proper manner. I don't care what's on a person's website as long as it's legal. It's not my decision, and it's not my job to be judgmental about whether I agree with what's on your Web site. And I think that's the big difference. In a lot of industries is depends on whether or not the boss agrees with you as to whether or not this or that is going to go into the staff newspaper.

Outlooks: What's in the future for COL? Some of the ISPs are actually moving into shopping and e-commerce. Are you planning to do the same?

Maguire: We had a management meeting on the weekend and it was decided that Calgary On Line was going to become COL Communications. We're not just going to be an Internet provider, we're going into the marketplace with cell phones and anything that relates to communication. We're going to try and provide one-stop shopping for the customer. Our expansion is two-pronged—first of all, it's in the services we already provide, which is now more than just Internet. Secondly we're expanding in the areas that we provide service. We will have offices across Canada. We have already made an agreement down in the States to acquire a number of ISPs down there. As of December 1st we will have access to 350 cities across Canada and the States. And this will be at no additional cost to our users. If you're up in Edmonton, and you have an account with us, you can be down in Calgary for the weekend, and you'll be able to dial here in Calgary and access your account the same as you would in Edmonton.

Outlooks: A final question: On a wider level, what do you think is happening with the Internet? Do you think any forthcoming changes are going to have an impact on the gay and lesbian communities?

Maguire: Oh, I think the impact is already there. If you go onto the IRC, the Internet relay chat, you've got gay people from around the world meeting and exchanging views. In some instances these guys all get together—there's a gay channel that holds a reunion every year—so people are already planning for this 2000 reunion and saving money to get a plane ticket to the meeting place. We've got a better understanding of what's going on in other areas of the world, as far as what gays and lesbians are facing politically as well as socially, and we've got a better line of communication just to meet new people. You've also got people on the net that are acting as counsellors. Most of them have professional degrees and are good at it. Because there's a level of anonymity to it, so you can talk to someone who's a professional, especially if you're a teenager coming out. You can get pointers on how to deal with issues and get some support when you're coming out to parents and friends. There's a community you can go back to where they don't know you. All we have is a nickname. So there's a strong network of support on the net, now, and a lot of web pages that provide support for people—especially those who are HIV positive.

Calgary On Line's web site is www.col.ca. Check it out for information on joining or for other services they provide.

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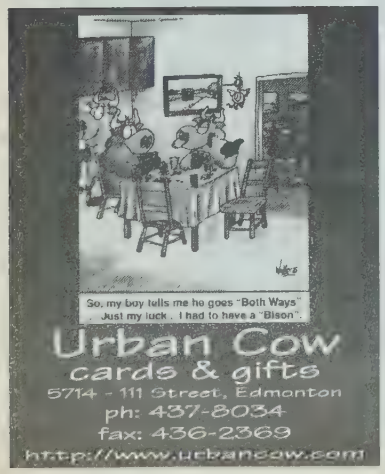

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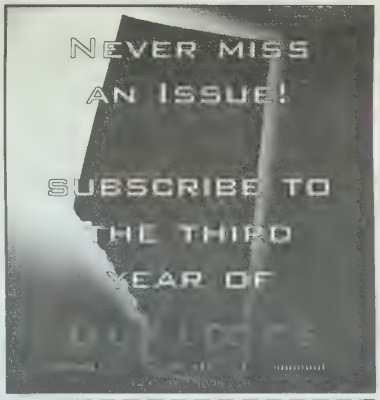

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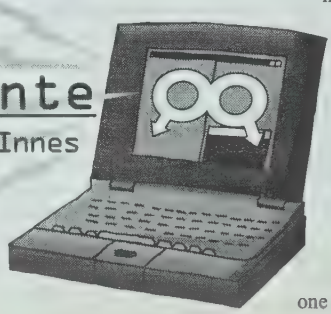
REVIEWS

the webutante

by Darren McInnes



I'm not certain how I stumbled upon a German website filled with Matrix-like marketing companies, skateboarder slogans, stereo equipment ads and white trash hidden-camera stills, but for my audience, I would do anything. At http://buzz.bazooka.se/buzz/ you can find all this and polish up your German at the same time. Best of all is the Kama Sutra of Pooh, a sudsy pictorial spread of our favorite childhood stuffed animals in some decidedly adult positions. Let's see: there's Pooh mounting Eeyore, then Eeyore 69ing Tigger and, finally, Pooh mounting Eeyore on Tigger. Ooh, it's furry and saucy and so wrong. So, so terribly wrong. Excuse me while I bookmark this one...

A TOUCHING MOMENT FROM KAMA SUTRA OF POOH

The sister of gloom behind www.bringdown.com won't be turning his frown upside down anytime soon. The e-zine's tagline, after all, is "Where there's a dark cloud in front of every rainbow." If you, too, hate *Genre* magazine, going to the gym, and silly disco bunnies, you should get more than your recommended intake of bitterness calories here. Take a peek at "Moron of the Month" where he rips apart two harmless preppy boyfriend fags named Gaydon (he used to work as Macy's Polo rep!) and Jeremy ("here's some of our favorite "we" moments!"). Then again, anyone who posts his workout schedule and tear-jerking coming-out story on the net deserves a little good-natured ribbing. That or an IQ intravenous drip. Earlier issues include "Think You're Happy? Think Again!", "Come In and Dirty your Mental Diapers" and "Chicken Gizzards for the Soul." I feel better already, don't you?

No more shy about baring his razor-sharp teeth is larrybob, who offers his monthly rants at Holy Titclamps (www.io.com/~larrybob) for followers with a rancid sense of humor and a stomach of steel. Ground already covered includes "How to Raise Your Child to be Gay: the path to the disco starts in the cradle", "Viatical Vampires: companies that profit from death" and "Other Peoples' Kinks: freaks are funny, so long as nobody's laughing at you." Catwoman scratched fewer eyes out. Larrybob's Event Listings primarily focus on San Francisco and upcoming Vaginal Davis shows, but he also looks at queer bands on tour around the U.S. and other parts of the world, as well as queer music venues in London, Chicago, Toronto and other major centres. This is also your first stop of choice if you're looking for a prisoner pen pal. After all, murderers need love too.

Smut, smut, wherefore art thou, smut? Oh kids, this *is* my favorite part of this column, and at www.hardedged.com, the erotic and just downright *dirty* work of photographer Vince Gabrielly is featured in all its artfully dripping detail. At Hardedged, they "strive to move away from pretty boys playing in leather to real men in real situations having real sex." How real is that? They also feature interviews (with "real" men, surely), stories, behind-the-scenes photographs and video clips. The only thing that could make these kinky, gritty pics better would be a scratch and sniff monitor.

Cinematically, we've seen drag queens traverse America and Australia with mixed comedic results, but how about the "exciting life story of a drag queen systems analyst on the run from the law"? You can meet the one and only Trudy of Cyberbia at www.trudy.com/trudy along with her neighbor Verlene Long-LaBois, whose sad claim to fame is that she learned to tie a sarong. There are other lovely-inbred guests in close-by tracts of Trudy's trailer park worth visiting, as well as vacation snapshots.

...continued on page 27

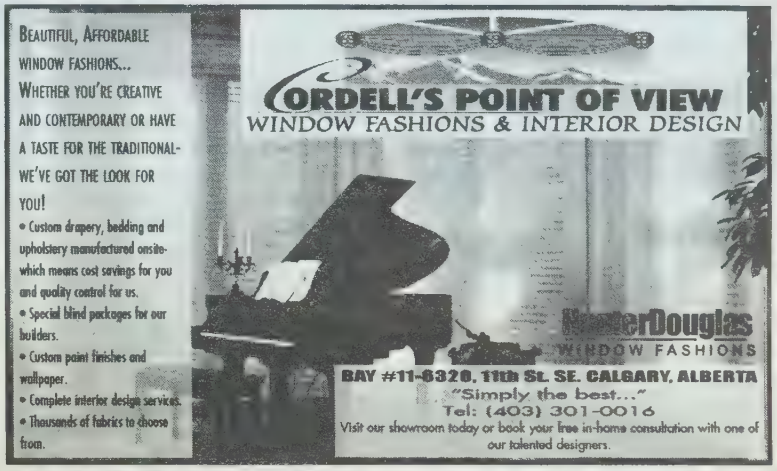
...continued from page 26

Who knew there were so many uses for Tupperware containers? Or meat grinders? Submit some highly personal details to Trudy and she'll come up with a drag name for you. This riff-raff vamp also wins the best line of the month award with this food-candy for thought: "Sophia Loren was hardly built in a day." Word.

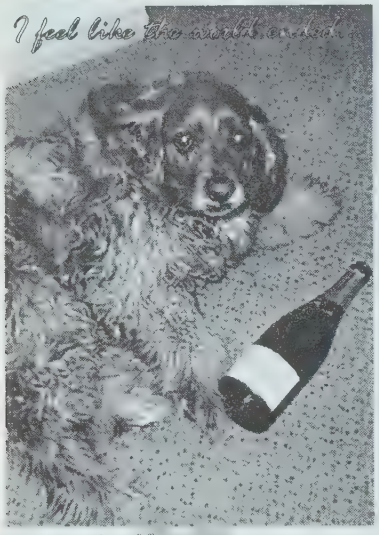
The best part about supermarket rags are the headlines, so save yourself the sixty-five cents and embarrassment of reading one in line then turning to find the hunk you've hunted for the past three weeks staring at you with disgust. Instead, head to **http://news.excite.com/odd** where the warped world is your private oyster. Take for instance, "Famed Eatery Says 'Non' to Single Women." (Well, at least they didn't use that barbaric English term, "No"). Here's another one that I can only assume came from the maven of anal-retentive style herself, Martha Stewart: "Bloody Meat and Mauve Flowers Get the Boot." Is there no end to that woman's wisdom? And if you, like Holly Golightly, are planning a trip to visit your special fella at Sing Sing anytime soon, perhaps you should read: "Looking For a Few Good Men—In Prison." We do *so* limit ourselves by only frequenting bars, discos, and bathhouses, don't you think?

Being a big fan of cheese, but not getting my fill on Fran Drescher movies and Kajagoogoo retrospectives, I decided to go directly to the source. At **www.cheese.com**, you can find nearly 700 varieties of the tasty mold on the master of all dairy product databases. You can search for cheeses by name, by country, by texture, and by milk. There are cheese facts (some cheeses contain calcium!) and cheese news (some cheeses contain calcium!). As the site builders themselves point out, "Cheese is a nutritious food made mostly from the milk of cows but also other mammals, including sheep, goats, buffalo, reindeer, camels and yaks." What? No milk from rhinos or electric eels? How fromage is that?

In conclusion, I only have one thing to say this month: Think locally; dress globally. Ta!



Dear Freddy...



Dear Freddy,

I've finally decided that 2000 is the year I'm going to be true to myself and my identity; this year I'm going to "come out" all over again. I've been openly gay since I was nineteen, but since then I've also been hiding the fact that I'm really into feet. I live the look of them, the feel of them, the smell of them, the taste of them.

Unfortunately, most people think this is weird and can be quite judgemental about it. I've been wanting to write for a while but I know how you can be—do you have any advice?

Playing Footsie With A Double Life

Dear Footsie,

Tsk, tsk—I'm surprised at you; after all these years of supporting the habits of all you freaks out there, I'm hurt that you'd be so timid. Actually, I've always been rather fascinated with foot fetishism, even though I can't quite "see it" for myself (my paws are all full of gravel, rubbish, and poo—not too appetizing). I've always wondered what you people do for pornography—buy podiatrist's texts? And what do you consider "hardcore"—hammer toes, nail lint and bunions? Sweetheart, I don't have to like it to endorse it—grab a shoe catalogue, book a pedicure (cheaper than a whore and more fun for you, I'm sure) and make 2000—and beyond—the footiest, freakiest, most fabulous it can be.

Hugs, Fred

Dear Freddy,

When we decided on our resolutions for the new year, my boyfriend of five years said he was going to finally quit smoking. I think this is great but he really should have said "lose weight" instead—he's been getting bigger and bigger over the last two years and stopping smoking isn't going to help things. How can I address this matter subtly and without hurting his feelings?

Trim & Turned-Off, Lethbridge

Dear Trim,

Your signif sounds like he falls into the "straight looking, straight acting" category—the reproductives always let themselves go once they marry. What you need to do is acknowledge this issue in a gentle manner that won't upset or offend your puffed-up partner. Try replacing the feet on his side of the bed with cinder-blocks as a subtle hint that maybe he's slipped a bit on the veg/protein/carbs ratio. You may also wish to buy some of those 'No Fat Chicks' bumper stickers and plaster them on the arses of all his pants. Again, subtle but direct. If he gets hurt by this then he's obviously hypersensitive; just remind him that this is hard on you, too: you bought 'regular' boyfriend who you met, not the 'econo' size.

Best of luck,
Freddy

Write to me, dears!

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REVIEWS

by David Crosson

As we cross the threshold into what could very well be a "brave new world" for gays and lesbians, it seems quite remarkable that we are now in a position to discuss how—not *if*—we are portrayed in popular media. The debate has turned into a bit of a Goldilocks situation: Ellen's *Ellen* was 'too gay'; Eric McCormack's Will 'isn't gay enough'—when will we find something that's just right?

The truth is, we will *never* find something that's just right, because the definitive homosexual is about as easy to find as the definitive heterosexual. Or Bigfoot.

The greatest thing about the current state of affairs is that options and identities are being explored up and down the scale, a far cry from the one-note, limp-wristed sissies of the past. Even as late as 1980, members of the community took to the streets in protest of *Cruising*'s depiction of the SM lifestyle in the context of a serial killer thriller.

At this point in time, when reflection is all the rage (human nature, I suppose; possibly boredom), I thought it would be interesting to look at a couple of "early" gay films made at a time when such things were considered oddities and not a genre.

Making Love ***(1982) CBS/Fox Video. Directed by Arthur Hiller. Starring Michael Ontkean, Harry Hamlin and Kate Jackson.***

This could likely have been called the greatest horror flick of 1982, with its depiction of male homosexuality as something less than a depraved, hedonistic romp (also a far cry from the comedic campiness of that same year's *Tootsie)*. Watching *Making Love* seventeen years after its release makes it more than a little astonishing—it was the first film to tackle the subject in a less judgmental way, one that had the courage to dispatch with stereotypes and make the gay male characters three-dimensional and masculine. They are, first and foremost, men—men who just happen to like other men (it should be pointed out, however, that one of the main male characters is a raving Gilbert and Sullivan fan).

The story centres around Zack (Michael Ontkean) and Claire (Kate Jackson), a couple whose eight-year marriage is broken up by the arrival of a tall dark stranger named Bart (Harry Hamlin). It is important to note that Hamlin's character is not a predatory "butch fatale"; rather, he is the catalyst that makes Zack finally come to terms with his sexuality.

The film takes pains to point out the similarities between Zack's two love interests (the only difference being gender) and seeks to understand the confusion, the guilt and the need for men to turn away from traditional relationships and accept their homosexuality as a full part of their lives. In all, *Making Love* is more about male bonding than males banging—there is a gentleness in Bart and Zack's first sexual encounter that takes it out of the arena of mere lust (there's even soft oboe and violin action happening in the soundtrack!) and gives it real value. The scene also features the first *mano-a-mano* onscreen kiss that wasn't played for laughs. At the same time, the film doesn't pull any punches when it comes to acknowledging some of the sleazier aspects of gay subculture when trying to strike the balance between positive and negative.

As well, to the film's credit, director Hiller and Kate Jackson have ensured that Claire is given a full identity as a woman, a strong woman with prospects and potential and power—you know she's going to be all right. At film's close, you're rooting for both characters, with a bittersweet ending that ties up loose ends without making them into a fluffy and implausible bow.

Making Love, even through its title, shows a move towards a greater tolerance, a more liberal depiction of gays in the mainstream. Sadly, the film was also made just prior to the widespread hysteria of AIDS, and the ensuing backlash had tremendous repercussions. Perhaps now, armed with a little knowledge and a lot of hope, we can move forward into a time when such films are, in large, the rule and not the exception.

As Is ***(1986) Brandman Productions Inc/ Karl-Lorimar Video. Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg. Starring Robert Carradine, Jonathan Hadary, Allan Scarfe, Joanna Miles and Colleen Dewhurst.***

Produced four years after *Making Love*, *As Is* was one of a number of films that attempted to address the AIDS crisis within the broader culture. This movie is the story of two men living—and one dying—in the shadow of "gay cancer," the new killer on the block.

Rich (Robert Carradine) and Saul (Jonathan Hadary) are in the process of breaking up and dividing their possessions when Rich reveals that he has contracted AIDS. The disease has dropped into his life (as it had to so many at the time) and sent tsunami-like ripples through all aspects of his existence. Family, work, friendships, relationships—all are caught in the swell of paranoia, fear and intolerance. Everything that Rich touches—from telephones to toilets, soapdishes to coffee cups—becomes a perceived threat to those around him. At one point, even his doctor blurts out "Don't touch me!" during an office visit.

The siege-like aspect of other characters' reactions is captured handily in a series of vignettes delivered as rapidly as machine-gun fire, one example of the interesting wordplay used throughout, a layering to speech elements used to deliver a single message. There is also a very effective episode where characters recount the first time they heard about the disease, putting it in a cultural context that mirrors such landmark events as Kennedy's assassination, the moon walk, or Diana's death in the broader societal landscape.

As Is is an earnest film sparked by the "freshness" of pain and frustration that ruled at the time. Unfortunately, it is this same energy that causes the film to try too hard occasionally, relying on stereotype and melodrama to make its point. Preppies in polo shirts, fag-hag actresses, uptight suburbanites, corny leather queens, whiny Jews and wacky Latinos—all are there for the taking. Or the leaving, which is why the potential strength of this film is so diluted. You really can't care that much about many of the characters. As well, the extensive focus on drug abuse, infidelity, excessive drinking and pettiness in the gay community works against the sense of tragedy and compromises the film's central message that love will triumph over lust and death.

Perhaps the pendulum has swung a bit too far since *As Is*' release, flooding screens with a mass of loveable gay mascots, but it is an interesting way to see the media grapple for an equality equilibrium. Rent this film to see—and savour—just how far we've come in a short period of time.

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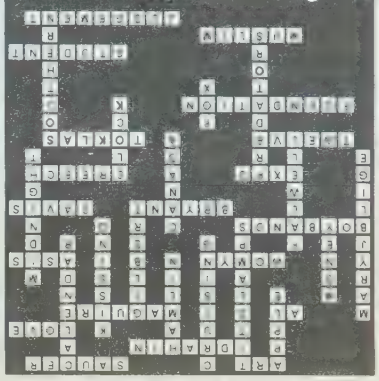

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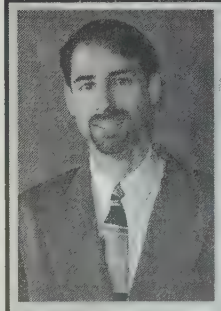

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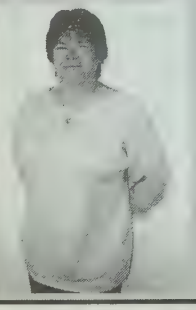

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FOX'S LAIR
From: Studio 2000
Featuring: Ryan Fox, Steven Marks, Chad Knight, Sam Carson, Alec Powers, Rip Stowe
Running Time: 100 minutes

Ryan Fox is a young man struggling to find his identity and understand his feelings for his friends. While his two roommates are travelling around Europe, Ryan manages to engage in some escapades of his own. When he's home alone on a Saturday night, he decides to go and visit his other roommate Mark, who runs the local gym. Ryan's broke, so a free workout with Mark is all he can afford. However, when he arrives at the spa he finds that Mark is pumping more than iron with Steve, his spotter. Ryan is devastated and leaves before they even notice him (little wonder as Steve has a mouthful and Mark has his back to the door). He rushes home and is confused by his jealousy.

The next morning at breakfast Ryan shows his anger to a very confused Mark who can't understand his jealous rage. When Mark invites Ryan to join him for a workout, he's even more confused when Ryan goes to the Y by himself. When you see the locker room action you'll know the Y's attraction for Ryan. Even though he's only a bystander watching, the situation's way too hot for Ryan and he leaves feeling even more confused.

Ryan goes to visit his brother Russ for some family advice and frank discussion about his sexuality. Much to Ryan's surprise, his straight, married brother has some stories to tell which tantalize the imagination. Such as when he goes camping with one of his jock teammates, Mike, the intimacy of the small tent is overwhelming and Russ gives in to some basic desires. The cute teammate surrenders to Russ and the story leaves Ryan even more confused. Russ tells Ryan he has to learn to bend, be flexible and get out to experience life.

Ryan turns to his best friend for more advice and decides it's time to come out. And, much to his surprise, Chad Knight feels the same way about Ryan. With the help of his best friend, Ryan turns his dreams into reality and his life is never going to be the same again. These superstuds are sure to help anyone find their way out of the closet.

Review sponsored by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre, L100 822 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, 266-5685

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS
MUSIC: ★★★ SET: ★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★ STORY: ★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

THE ENGLISH STUDENT
From: Bel Ami
Featuring: Julian Armanis, Sebastian Bennet, Claude Cocteau, Simon Jacobi, Jacques Melliés, Karl Tenner, Nico Tiziani, Alexander Strauss, Andrej Volek, Dano Sulik
Running Time: 110 minutes

Julian is taking a course in English and quickly learns that practice and experience are the best teachers. Every night his professor gives him homework to enlarge his vocabulary, but he finds it a mouthful on more than one occasion. His assignments include having to choose his own words based on his activities outside the classroom. When you see these activities in which Julian participates with his friends, you'll wonder how his teacher will react to the written essays. His vocabulary is definitely growing, but perhaps not the way it was intended. He learns to express himself with uninhibited passion, though perhaps not learning how to spell the words. With his hands this occupied he may never complete his written assignments...

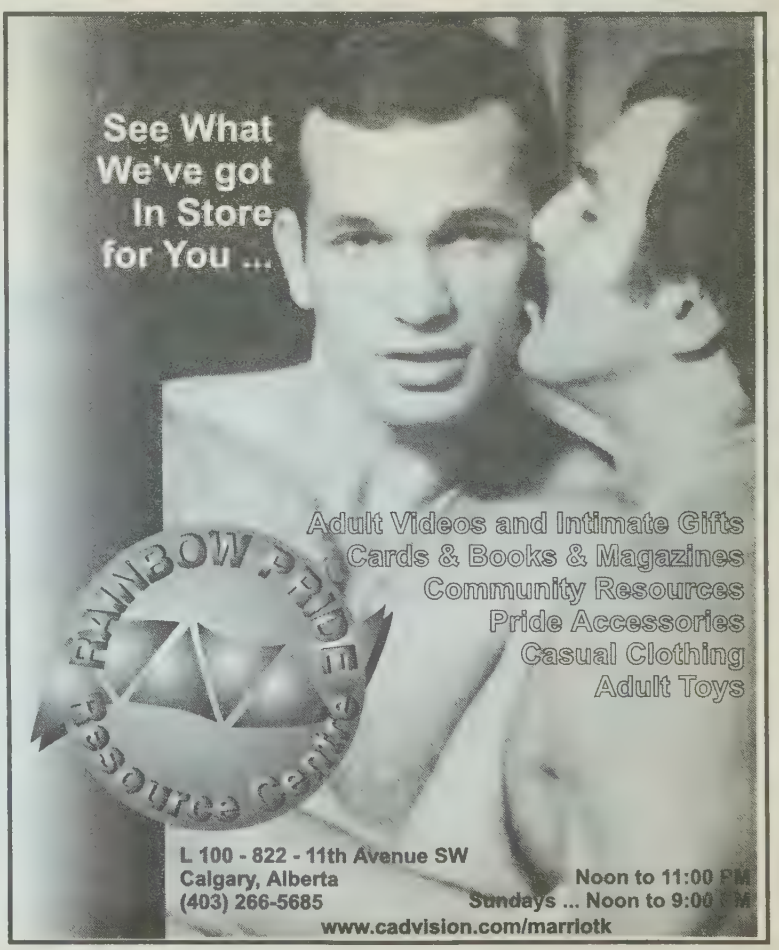
The first word on Julian's list of assignments is "cruising", and he quickly discovers the meaning (and it doesn't involve ships). Julian loves to go cruising in the Town Square, which is full of young men playing volleyball, other students taking relaxing strolls and cafes where one can sit and watch the hot action. In the park, Julian becomes involved in a ball game with another young student. When he takes the young man home, his vocabulary is expanded with some very long new words and experiences. Soon actions speak louder than words and Julian demonstrates his oral abilities in a different language.

His second word is "lick" and, of course, for this experience he thinks first of popsicles. However, after careful consideration he discovers other tasty treats to think about. With each new word a new experience comes to mind and Julian has an overactive imagination.

The stars of this movie include some Bel Ami favorites from the past and some of the hottest new talent from the *101 Men* auditions reviewed earlier this year. Newcomers include Claude Cocteau and Nico Tiziani. Simon Jacobi was a major vote winner from the *101 Men* video and you'll soon see why his attributes went over big during the auditions. Join Julian for some homework that really is a pleasure—you may want to return to your school days.

Review sponsored by Express Video, #202 11745 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, (780) 482-7480. Email: exec.express@v-wave.com

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS
MUSIC: ★★★★ SET: ★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★ STORY: ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★



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Edmonton: Down Under
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JUST FRIENDS

Box 2632: Looking to meet up with some guys for friendship. Just moved here myself from out east a couple of months ago, and not into the gay scene at all. Looking for guys with similar interests, I enjoy going movies, enjoy a good laugh, enjoy music. As far as activities, I really get into downhill skiing, mountain biking.

Box 2673: What I'm looking for is a gym workout partner or partners. It is my goal to make some serious and drastic changes as it relates to my level of physical fitness. I'm looking for someone with similar aspirations to help me reach my goals. You must be willing to commit to working out 5-6 days a week, 1-1/2 to 3 hours per day, in the evenings, Monday to Thursdays, and either the mornings or afternoons, Friday to Sundays. I work out at World Health. A little bit about myself: I'm 33, a gay white male, 6', 180lb, a nonsmoker and straight acting. I enjoy such activities as downhill skiing, running, swimming and spending time in the waves with my skidoo. I'm looking for someone between 25-40, straight acting and a nonsmoker. You are serious, as I am, and can provide the commitment and not excuses and are looking for someone to help to reach your goals, and are able to commit to the time and effort to a workout that I've indicated. Also looking for someone who'd like to jog on a regular basis.

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIPS

Box 2512: I'm a 36 year old gay male, I stand 5'11", and I weigh 180lb, give or take a few. I have short brown hair, and green-hazel eyes. I'm basically on the system to find a person for an ongoing but discreet, clean relationship. I'm looking for someone who likes to go out and have some fun, like going to the movies, going for walks, romantic drives to the mountains, a person who likes to go shoot a game of pool. With the right person to have a hot and sweaty and slippery night.

Box 2543: I'm Colin, 19, 5'6", 125lb, blue eyes. I guess I'm a nice person who's a little shy, kind of new to this. Kind of coming out right now, just looking for friends right now and hopefully long term. My last relationship was long term so I kind of hope this one will be longer and more trusting.

Box 2588: I'm 32 years old, I live out in Banff, I'm in Bow Valley area. Looking to meet somebody from the Banff and more Lake Louise area that's also into things I'm into. I'm a cowboy type, into country and western music, pretty flexible on that issue, and I just like to get together with down-to-earth persons who are interested in creating a life together.

Box 2642: I'm a white male in my early-40s. I'm easy-going, enjoy a good time, like to laugh. I'm seeking other guys who would like to take things slow from the start, it's been a while since I've been in a relationship. I'm a big fellow, I'm 6', 245lb, but I'm not unattractive. I prefer to please a heavy other guy, just lay back and enjoy. I am available evenings and weekends. Prefer younger guys, anywhere's between the ages of 18-35.

Box 2662: My name is Rick, I'm an attractive 38 year old, 5'10", brown hair, hazel eyes, and I weigh 150lb. I'm financially stable as you should be as well. I like to do a variety of things such as camping, hiking, dinners, movies, and quiet evenings at home with someone special. I'm down-to-earth, honest, and sincere. I have a very positive outlook on life, and live for today and plan for tomorrow. I'm looking for that special guy who excites myself not only physically but intellectually and emotionally. I would prefer someone who is attractive, definitely slim and in pretty good shape. I'm not into head games or guys who are trying to make a statement by waving banners or acting feminine. It's hard to say exactly what I'm like and what I like.

Box 2677: This is Larry and I recently moved here from Vancouver. I am a working professional, working downtown Calgary. I'm 36 years old but I look around 28, 5'7", 64kg. I am not a submissive, I am very confident. I am financially secure as well. I do consider myself above average smooth, fit gay Chinese male who is into watching movies, going out, doing things together with that someone special. The person I am looking for must be gay white male, HIV-, nonsmoker, nonfat, and he must be financially secure as well. And preferably between the age of 35-49. My interests are computers, reading technical books and cooking.

Box 2682: I'm going to preface this by saying I'm not desperate, I'm just tired of meeting the wrong kind of guy at the wrong kind of bar. I'm 28, 5'10", 160lb, dark hair, blue eyes, cleancut, clean-shaven, I'm a good-looking cute, boyish, boy-next-door kind of look going on. I've got a nice build and fairly sarcastic sense of humor. I like to laugh and I'm looking for a guy who's about my own age, which means 25-33. Looking for a guy who's educated, working, likes to read, likes the outdoors and likes to do other things on the weekend besides hit pigtown.

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CASUAL ENCOUNTERS

Box 2547: It's Kyle here, 30 year old, standing 6'2", 198lb, short military cut hair, clean-shaven, 8" cock very thick and cut, nice ass, not too hairy of a body. I'm a bi guy looking to hook up with Asian guys only, that are young and cute, and I stress that. Between the ages of 18-28. Guys who are smaller than myself in height and weight. Cute boyish looks always turn me on. If you're a little bit submissive that's a bonus, but I like masculine guys that are a lot of fun.

Box 2561: I'm Shawn, I'm 33, 6'2", 180lb, brown hair, blue eyes, in good shape. I'm looking for a little brother, somebody about 18 - 21. That's a little under 5'5" and would like to have a big brother to hang out with and have fun with and also kind of cuddly and likes to be hugged, kissed and stuff like that. I would treat you good and make you feel wanted. I really like smooth, slim guys.

Box 2564: This very good-looking, young looking guy wants to get together with only big muscular guys. The bigger the better, the muscular the better. I'm not interested in the guys that go the gay bar, but would like to get fucked by a big muscular man.

Box 2596: I'm a 25 year old bi white male, 6'1", 170lb, good-looking, clean, safe, discreet. Looking to get together with other bi white males or gay white males on a casual ongoing basis. You're 30-40 years old and like the company of a younger male.

Box 2614: 150lb, bottom boy here, brown hair, brown eyes, 5'9", 7" uncut cock, throbbing hard. What I'm into guys is to come over to your house, get down on my knees, wrap my lips around your hard thick shaft, suck you off until you spurt down my throat and my face.

Box 2636: Late-40s, bi-curious guy looking for someone who would like to give me oral initially. I'm about 5'10", 160lb, good-looking and 6-1/2" cock, cut, nice and thick. You're looking for discreet encounters, unattached.

Box 2639: Looking to service a good-looking young man, just have you lay back and enjoy, nothing more, nothing less. I'm 40 years old, I'm a big boy. I'm 6', 245lb but I'm not unattractive. I love to perform oral, I'm good at it.

Box 2651: Looking for other guys for friendship, possibly long term relationship for casual and discreet encounters. Very slim, very fit and open-minded.

Box 2655: I need to come, my cock is hard, I'm naked all over, I'm laying down, my legs are wide apart. I love cumming on my toes, and then licking my own cum. I want to come in front of you. I'm so horny and naked, I love cumming, I want to cum, I need an audience, I've always dreamed about cumming in front of somebody. Make it you. Let me cum in front of you, please. I have to cum, I have to. Oh god, I love cumming, cock's pulsing, it's pulsing, it's cumming. Oh I love the taste of the juice. The stuff that cums out of my cock is so tasty. Watch me cum. I love a hard cock. I love my cock.

Box 2671: I'm a bi guy, 26 years old, 5'11", brown hair and eyes, weigh 175lb, I'm 7-1/2" cut, moderately hairy body. I'm into anything clean, safe, discreet and fun. I like lots of hot body contact, stroking, 69s, lots of touching, licking. I'm looking for a laid-back, sweats and t-shirt kind of guy, who's easy-going, discreet and into pretty much the same things I am.

Box 2688: 21 year old looking for new friends, new possibilities, as in casual encounters. I'm 5'9", weigh about 240-245lb, I workout 3-4 times a week. I'm just looking for a person to be very good friends with, go out have coffee, go out to movies, just talk, I'm very talkative, I love talking on the telephone. I go to college and am looking for someone 18-27.

LEATHER & SM

Box 2535: This is a very naughty, submissive boy looking for a daddy for some good spankings.

Box 2626: I'm an aggressive, dominant, married, bi male, 41, 6'2", 210lb, attractive with blue eyes, a moustache and goatee, a hairy chest and an average body. I'm experienced, and I'm looking for a clean, discreet, bottom I can train to suck my 7" cut cock just the way I like. You must have a talented mouth and preferably be able to entertain. You should also enjoy BD, butt play and toys, SM including cock, ball and nipple torture, verbal abuse, spankings, flagellation, intimacy training, wax and more.

Box 2633: Is there a mean, strict and aggressive master out there who could use a slave for purposes of ass worship, toilet training, rape fantasies, gang bangs. I enjoy being in captivity, I enjoy being held in captivity, the longer the better, if not indefinitely. Very, very, very submissive and very willing to serve. I have a virgin ass, a hungry and willing mouth. Would like to be used for domestic training as well.

BEARS, BIG MEN & THEIR ADMIRERS

Box 2630: Stocky male, 34 years old, blond flat top, fairly hairy all over, pierced nipple. Looking for other guys into mutual masturbation. Love porn, love poppers. Looking for guys who appreciate larger guys, or guys who just want to have fun.

Box 2638: I'm a big boy, I'm 6', 250lb. I love to service good-looking young men. I have some strange working hours, but am usually available on the weekends. You just want to lay back and enjoy, and let me do all the pleasing.

TRANSGENDER

Box 2533: I'm looking for transsexuals to dress up and have fun and games with, you know how it is.

Box 2544: Brand new to Calgary, I'm Dan. Looking to meet crossdressers who are into having some safe fun and everything else.

Box 2609: I'm a 27 year old, single. I am 5'9", clean-shaven, medium-build, 175lb, black hair, brown eyes, extremely attractive. I am brown-skinned, with a trim, smooth body, and a smooth, hairless bottom. I have a nice hot loaded pistol for you. I wish to meet a gay or bi male, any race, who is sexually spontaneous, who likes to give oral for hot steamy sex. I am a diminutive type person. I like to work on lots of gay males and a very few selective bi males. I love to play for long periods of time.

Box 2618: I'm a tall, slim, very feminine, very sexy TV, who's wishing to meet with other girlfriends who share my same passion for extreme feminism. If you fantasize about romantic and intimate rendezvous in very romantic surroundings, sipping wine and cuddling in front of a warm fire, the feel of lingerie and velvet against our perfumed bodies. Mmm.

Box 2660: I'm Troy, I'm an attractive, single, white male. I'm tall, with a fit, muscular athletic build, very open-minded, easy-going. I'm looking for an attractive, slim transvestite/transsexual to at least talk and/or fun times.

BISEXUALS

Box 2593: I'm a 5'8", 150lb, open-minded, 36 year old, bi male. Looking for a couple, where the female would participate on occasion.

Box 2674: I'm Eric, 5'7", 160lb, blond hair, 27 years old. Looking for fun.

Box 2683: I'm 26, 5'11", 160lb, short brown hair, blue eyes, goatee. Looking to meet a masculine guy that's into the outdoors, sports, that kind of thing. Really into oral, body contact, mutual JO, and whatever else comes to mind.

CASUAL ENCOUNTERS FEMALE

Box 2629: I'm Devon, I'm very bi-curious, I'm 18. There's not many women's ads on here, I thought I'd make my own and maybe I'd get a few more friends. I'm willing to try anything if you are.

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